

RAILROAD ITEMS.

Before very many days now the other trans-continental line will be completed. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, on the 15th inst., advanced their construction terminus 12 miles, which brings them distant by road only 12 miles from the junction with the Southern Pacific. Large tracts of country will be opened up by this new line, and towns are already springing up at different points. It is mainly through the influence of this road that so many miners are seeking new grounds in Arizona and New Mexico. It is probable that a great deal of ore will be shipped away for reduction as soon as the means of transportation are produced.

At El Paso, or near there, where the junction of railroads is to be made, it is stated that all the roads centering there, three or four in number, are to join and build a huge depot house. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe has 50 acres there, and the arrangements for work are going on satisfactorily.

Dispatches from Chicago state that J. W. Morse, General Passenger agent of the Union Pacific, has just returned from New York, where he and other officials of the road have been perfecting arrangements for the construction of a new line from Granger, Utah, a station on the Union Pacific, to Baker City, Oregon, where a connection is made with the Oregon railway, now in course of construction to Portland and other points in Oregon. It is the intention of the Union Pacific to get ahead of the Northern Pacific in reaching Oregon points, and provide a competing line that is claimed will be 300 miles shorter to Portland, Oregon, taking Chicago as a common point, than the Northern Pacific. The new line will start from Granger station, and run northwest to a connection with the Utah Northern, also controlled by the Union Pacific. The Utah Northern might have been used all the way from Ogden, but by building a new line from Granger northwest, 750 miles in length, the route is shortened 150 miles. In the building of this connecting link, a tunnel 2,000 ft. long has to be constructed, and work on this has already been commenced. Work on the new line will be commenced at once, and is expected to be ready for business to Baker City in one year. While the parties were in New York, arrangements were also completed for taking control of the Kansas Central railroad. This road runs from Leavenworth west to Onaga, Pottawatomie county, Kansas. The Union Pacific agree to assume the debt of the line, and will at once extend it to Clay Center, where a connection is made with the Junction City branch of the Kansas Pacific. The principal object of the Union Pacific in getting control of this road is to prevent it from falling into the hands of rival lines, and to cover a territory which has as yet no other railroad facilities.

The Utah and Northern railroad is the longest narrow-gauge in the country. Its rolling stock for this year will be not less than 720 cars and 38 locomotives.

The railroads throughout California have been of late very much troubled, owing to floods, washouts, caves, etc.

BEERSTEAK PICKLED.—Lay a steak in a pudding-dish with slices of onion, a few cloves, whole pepper, salt, a bay leaf, a sprig of thyme, one of marjoram, and some parsley; add oil and tarragon vinegar in equal parts, just to come up to the steak, and let it steep in this for about 12 hours, turning it occasionally; then either broil it or fry it in butter, and serve with mashed potatoes. It may also be fried in butter, and then stewed with a little common stock, and served with piquant sauce.

THE ALASKA MINES.

A correspondent of the *Mining and Scientific Press*, writing from Sitka, Alaska, under date of January 25th, in relation to the mines in that Territory, says: "I think it probable that as you have not heard for a long time from this part of the coast (Sitka), a few notes in regard to certain newspaper reports may be of advantage to the readers of the *Mining and Scientific Press*. During the past summer, feeling confident of the mineral wealth of Alaska, I fitted out seven different parties to prospect, each with six months' provisions and equipments. I also paid each party, which consisted of five or six men, regular wages; as otherwise I could not expect to have the prospecting of the country done to my own satisfaction.

The last of the seven parties returned in the latter part of November, and brought here to Sitka, on a canoe, about two tons of the richest quartz I ever saw in any country. I went up to this new El Dorado, leaving here on the 25th of November, and arrived there, on a canoe, on the 29th of the same month.

The district is called after the discoverer, "Harris district," and is situated on the main land of Alaska, between the Takou and Chilcat river, in 58° 28' north latitude and longitude 134° 10', within four miles of Stephenson's straits, opposite Douglas Island, on the northern end of Admiralty Island.

The discoveries of the ledges and placers were first made on Gold creek, but since traced and found in Salmon creek and Glacier creek, five and seven miles northwest respectively, and in Sheep creek, three miles southeast. The same ledges and ores were found 30 miles southeast, and in Windham, Spruce and Sebuc creeks, where, for the last five years, the placers have been paying well to a small lot of men. In Gold creek and its tributaries some 60 claims are now already taken up and staked out, and on all very encouraging prospects have been found. They may be called \$5 to \$20 diggings. But very little can be done there before April or May, as the men are not prepared to work yet, and are only getting ready and prospecting their grounds.

THE LEDGES.

The ledges which made these placers are at the head of the creek, and cross the creek twice in a distance of about two miles. There is but one belt of them, which is about 3,000 ft. wide, and in it the six main ledges run parallel to each other, besides a number of smaller veins, but which are taken in by the main locations, as those are only about 300 to 500 ft. apart, and are from 6 to 30 ft. in width. These ledges, which show bold cropping for over three inches (so far as I have been on them), hold very regular in size and distance apart, and the whole length show the richest kind of ore. The quartz is imbedded in soft slate, and is quite decomposed and brittle. The gold is mostly free in the quartz, but the richest ore is in the galena, which is the only disadvantage of the ore, as I expect it will interfere with the amalgamation; yet the gold is quite coarse and very heavy, so that it will readily concentrate with the galena to be smelted there. I have made upward of a hundred assays, both fire and wet, and the lowest assay out of the very poorest piece of quartz yielded \$33 per ton, while the average of my assays which might be also called average of the ledges, are 285 per ton, and run from \$100 to \$5,000 per ton; and then I have never yet assayed any specimens.

The ledges were respectively called the Jamestown, Takou, Pilz, North Star, Montana, California ledges, and on each there are claimed already six locations of 1,500 ft. each, with plenty of ore on all of them. In the creeks lay thousands of tons of the richest kind of ore, every piece of which shows the gold plainly, and a good many of the placer claims are valuable for the quartz which lies on them.

WATER IN THE CREEKS.

There is an abundance of water in the creeks as they are fed from eternal snow banks high up in the mountains, and there were on the 15th of De-

ember, all of 3,000 inches running, which is the lowest water of the year. There is nothing to prevent working these mines the year around. As so far as this (January 18th), in the season, we have had only six days of frost, and now there is no snow as far as 1,000 ft. above sea, and it rains a good deal, of course, in the high mountains. It snows in the higher mountains.

The country is thickly timbered with red and black spruce, black pine, hemlock, alder and red birch, not so tremendously thick as on the island, as there is 100% more moisture on the archipelago than on main-land.

The way to it is very easy and any large vessel can sail to the mouth of the creeks and anchor within 200 ft. of the shore. Already I had a 150 ton steamer up there, taking up my men and supplies, and by the middle of February, I expect to have the mail steamer *California*, running up there with lumber and supplies. Outside of this district one of my parties found

A SILVER ORE DISTRICT

Between Lynn canal and Youiatato and Hoonah island. The ore they brought from there is most encouraging. They brought some chloride and some bromide silver ore which is quite high grade, and they claim to have plenty of it. They also bring samples of argentiferous galena, from a whole mountain of the kind, which yields 40% lead, and \$25 to \$60 per ton in silver.

Another ledge they report quite large, the samples yielding from \$30 to \$120 in silver and \$60 to \$100 in gold. They report also and bring fine samples of copper-silver glance, antimonial silver, and sulphurets of copper, in large quantities. This is called Morrisana district, and I shall visit it early in the spring in the U. S. N. steam launches. I must not forget to give due credit to Commander Glass and the other officers of the U. S. ship *Jamestown*, for their ready assistance to us prospectors, they having done everything in their power to further our efforts. You will please continue to send me the *Press*, and send me also a set of back numbers from July last."

SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING LONG LIFE.—If any one could furnish the world with a medicine which would insure a long life, there is no end to the demand he would have for his drug. The *Herald of Health* thinks he would need many factories to make it, and many banks to hold the money he would receive. Fortunately, there is no such medicine, and so the world will have to get along in some other way. Some time ago the French government sent a circular letter to all the districts of that country to collect information as to those conditions of life which seemed to favor longevity. The replies were very interesting, but on the whole rather monotonous; and the general result was that longevity is promoted by great sobriety, regular labor, especially in the open air, short of excessive fatigue, easy hours, a well-off condition, a philosophical mind in meeting troubles, not too much intellect, and a domestic life. The value of marriage was universally admitted, and long-lived parents were also found an important factor. A healthy climate and good water were mentioned. All this agrees with common sense, unless the idea that the intellect is a hindrance to longevity be considered unreasonable, and we know that some of the most intellectual men have lived to great age.

IMPROVED CAUSTIC.—It sometimes becomes necessary to remove certain morbid growths in the throat and elsewhere, and for this purpose a stick of fused nitrate of silver secured in a quill is generally employed. Unfortunately it not unfrequently happens that the caustic breaks off and slips down the throat. To prevent this, a Russian surgeon melts together five parts of nitrate of silver and one part nitrate of lead. This composition does not break easily, and can be sharpened like a lead pencil. It should be fastened in a quill made of metallic aluminum, which is not corroded by the caustic as metallic silver is.