SITUATION IN ALASKA

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DALY FAVORS CHANGE OF CAPITAL.

Juneau's Advantages Over Sitka—Other Needs of Territory Are Civil Code and More Courts.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—One of the recent arrivals in Washington from Alaska is District Attorney A. J. Daly, and although brought here by legal business, Judge Daly is willing to discuss the situation at home both freely and frankly.

"Alaska does not want more than a territory is entitled to," he said, "but we want at least that much. I am glad that Congress has at last taken note of the fact that the people of Alaska want the capital changed from Sitka to Juneau. I will point out why this change should be made. Sitka is off on an island, isolated from the mainland, and is the last place in the territory for a court. Only two boats run to Sitka each month, and this is the only communication. Now, when a lawyer has a case, he is compelled to rush into court, take chances on getting a speedy verdict, and catching the same boat before it leaves. Otherwise, he is compelled to remain in a barren, deserted place for two weeks, when the next boat touches. This is only one drawback.

"Sitka is the last stop for all boats from Seattle. Now, Juneau is on the mainland and can be reached at any time. There are 14 lawyers there to four in Sitka. Juneau is close to Skagway and other important points, and even Governor Brady favors the change.

"There are two other things Alaska should and must have. One is a delegate in Congress, in common with other territories, and the other is a civil code adapted to the needs of the country. The present code in use in Alaska is that of Oregon, which was taken bodily and dumped on the territory without regard to application. There should also be three district courts in Alaska. With a territory exceeding that of all the states west of the Mississippi, we have but one court, and we hope Congress will see the need of at least two more.

"The pending bill will supply most of these needs, but even that bill does not provide for a delegate in Congress. We need such a delegate in order that the needs and demands of the territory may be properly laid before Congress, and kept there. We do not care so much for a vote as we do to have our ideas and wants properly presented, and there is but one way to accomplish this purpose. Our people will not be satisfied until they have a delegate in Congress, and while we hardly expect to get one this year, we hope by persistent efforts and a good showing to have favorable consideration in this matter along with others before a great while."

Joe Cannon's Joke.

When the Republican members of the House were in "conference" over the Puerto Rican bill, a rather amusing incident occurred, that was provoked by the dryly humorous Representative from Illinois, Joe Cannon. The "opposition" had been strengthened and taken a fresh start after the speech of Littlefield, for he and they had received telegrams from prominent and leading papers all over the country, indorsing the stand of the gentleman from Maine on the question. After several members had announced that they had received telegrams from their home papers in support of the policy outlined by Littlefield, Uncle Joe rose up and said: "Gentlemen, I, too, have received telegrams. Papers and editors have been telegraphing me just as they have you, but I know the little jokers! I know the little jokers!"

And this one incident, which showed how the veteran legislator was ready and willing to set aside the opinions of the press, did more to discourage those who had just begun to take hope, than anything in the line of solid argument that was presented at the conference. In fact, Joe Cannon has little fear of the papers, for in the second caucus he denounced and ridiculed members who were influenced by the stand that had been taken by the press of the country. He said that in his younger days he had voted as the papers had urged, but had long since abandoned that practice. He said that they were looking for live material, and if they could make members reverse themselves they not only had a good story, but had an opportunity to make a second story ridiculing members for being so easily influenced.

Supreme Court May Decide.

Those members of the House who were opposed to the Puerto Rican tariff bill, but who were finally whipped into line and made to support it, take some consolation in the fact that the Supreme Court may ultimately be called upon to settle this question, and they are living in hopes that that tribunal may declare the taxation to be unconstitutional. In face of the fact that some of the best lawyers in the House declared the levying of this duty to be in violation of the Constitution, the friends of the measure insist, and the heads of several of the departments insist that there can be no question as to the constitutional right in the matter, while the opponents of the bill are just as strongly convinced in the other direction.

To a disinterested party, and as a matter of fact there were few who understood the question that did not take a most intense interest in it, the situation in the House was decidedly comical, yet pitifully serious. There were a large number of Republican members who at heart were bitterly opposed to the bill, and yet who had not the courage to stand by their convictions and vote as they felt morally inclined to do. It was this situation which so pleased the Democrats, who for a long time were very confident of defeating the bill. But even when they saw the obstinate Republicans yielding to pressure, they took consolation in looking into the future to see the trouble that many of those wavering, weak-kneed Republicans were storing up for themselves in voting against their convictions and the belief of their constituents.

MR. FRICK'S REVELATIONS.

A Gigantic Corporation Needing Protection as an "Infant Industry."

New York Times.

Mr. Frick's bill of complaint in his suit against Mr. Carnegie puts into the hands of the assailants of the tariff-protected trusts, combinations, and monopolies the most formidable artillery they have ever possessed. The enormous profits of the Carnegie Steel Company, now authoritatively revealed in Mr. Frick's complaint, showing that the company made $21,000,000 last year, on a capitalization of $25,000,000, and expects to make $40,000,000 this year, exhibit these great works as a veritable gold mine to their owners. They exhibit more than that. These profits are made in a business that is carried on under the shelter of protective tariff duties ranging from 25 to 50 per cent or more, and averaging 45 per cent ad valorem on the entire class of manufactures of iron and steel. Mr. Frick's terribly candid exposure of the extravagant benefits which protection confers upon the manufacturer at the expense of the helpless consumer makes it impossible that the Republican party or any other party should longer defend or maintain the barriers against competition which have made it easy for the Carnegie works to earn profits of from 80 to 160 per cent upon a capital which appears to have been largely in excess of the actual cost of the plants engaged in the business.

From the bill of complaint it appears that in 1892 Carnegie Bros. & Co. and Carnegie, Phipps & Co., each having a capital of $5,000,000, combined under the name of the Carnegie Steel Company, with a capital of $25,000,000, of which only $20,000,000 was ever paid in. The amount paid in seems to have been made up by issuing 200 per cent dividends on the capital of the two component companies, and by a somewhat peculiar transaction the checks representing these dividends were made to serve as cash in paying in the capital.

The colossal business results of this combination and its subsequent able management are best set forth in the words of Mr. Frick's complaint:

The business from 1892 to 1900 was enormously profitable, growing by leaps and jumps from year to year until, in 1899, the firm actually made on low-priced contracts in net profits, after paying expenses of all kinds, $21,000,000. In November, 1898, Carnegie estimated the net profits for 1900 at $40,000,000, and Frick then estimated them at $42,500,000.

Carnegie valued the entire property at over $250,000,000, and avowed his ability in ordinarily prosperous times to sell the property on the London market for $100,000,000, or $500,000,000.

In May, 1899, Carnegie actually received in cash and still keeps $1,170,000 given him as a mere bonus for his 90 days' option to sell his 58½ per cent interest in this steel company for $157,950,000. Frick's 6 per cent, on that basis, would be worth $16,238,000.

If we take Mr. Frick's estimate of the profits of the works for the current year 1900, the profit and loss surplus at the end of the year will be $42,500,000. Let us set aside out of this $2,500,000, or 10 per cent on the capital stock of the concern. There are countless manufacturers in this country who would be very glad to make 10 per cent on their invested capital, leaving watered stock out of the question. There is a large and probably growing class who think that when dividends rise above 10 per cent, either the prices charged to consumers are kept too high through the shutting out of competition, or that labor has not had its fair share of the earnings. However that may be, after we have set aside a 10 per cent dividend fund for Mr. Carnegie, Mr. Frick and their partners, there remains the vast sum of $40,000,000. The entire output of pig iron and steel in the United States for the year 1898 was something over 20,000,000 tons. If we average the price at $20 a ton, which is not far out of the way, the money value of the product is seen to be $400,000,000. The $40,000,000 which we have left over after paying a 10 per cent dividend to the stockholders of the Carnegie Steel Company is equal just to 10 per cent of this sum. If the company had been content with a 10 per cent dividend, it would have been able to reduce its charges to consumers by an amount equal to 10 per cent of the total value of the iron and steel output of the country. That would make a vast difference to the building trades, to the railroads, and to the general business of the country.

PORTLAND LETTER LIST.

Persons calling for these letters will please state date on which they were advertised, March 5. They will be charged for at the rate of 1 cent each.

WOMEN'S LIST.

Anderson, Miss Della	Londergan, Mrs James
Anderson, Mrs Nellie	Londergan, Mrs James
Backman, Miss Hilda	Long, Miss Ruby
Bailey, Mrs Clara	McDonald, Mrs Jemima
Baruh, Miss	Malsan, Miss Lena
Bell, Mrs M	Mansfield, Mrs James H
Berger, Mrs John H	Mason, Miss Myrtle
Billings, Miss Hattie	Mitchell, Miss Mamie
Boone, Mrs Emma	Modie, Miss Lyda
Bowen, Mrs Leona	Munroe, Miss Gay
Chappelle, Mrs Nellie	Nelson, Mrs M J
Clancy, Mrs James L	Nickelson, Miss Clara
Clark, Ida	Nickold, Mrs Orah
Clark, Mrs H C	Peavy, Miss Emma
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Colgon, Mrs O K	Peck, Mrs Alice
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Crawford, Mrs C	Raths, Mrs Ruth
Damon, Miss Jessicor	Randol, Mrs Anna
DePug, Mrs Elber	Rees, Mrs M E
Deur, Mrs Emmaline	Reed, Mrs Tena
DeWiggins, Miss Grace M	Rollins, Miss Ruby
Dilge, Miss Cora	Rose, Mrs Kathereen
Dill, Mrs Jennie E	Ruhl, Miss Anna
Donahue, Winnie	Sath, Miss Hannah
Duseeaux, Madame Blanche	Sandberg, Miss Marie
Duffy, Miss Frankie	Seymour, Mrs Lizzie
Edwards, Miss Jessie	Sears, Mrs R
Emmons, Sarah B	Sherrill, Miss Ida
English, Mrs Jno A	Smart, Miss Fannie
Fish, Mrs M S	Stair, Mrs F W
Girard, Mrs E J	Steps, Mrs Ina
Gillespie, Miss Lucia	Steins Miss Bertha
Gilly, Mrs G I	Steingrandt, Mrs G E
Graham, Lydia M	Stevens, Mrs A L
Gray, Mrs A W	Stuart, Imogene
Ground, Miss Dora	Sperling, Miss Lizzie
Hangen, Mrs Iver	Takli, Miss Marith
Hagermann, Miss Mae	Thompson, Miss S-3
Hanson, Mrs Mary	Thielsen, Mrs Emma S
Hess, Miss E	Thompson, Mrs E E
Hendricks, Miss Ethel	Tukman, Miss Ernestine
Hillie, Miss Annie	Turner, Miss Annie
Hotzon, Mrs Marry	Vance, Mrs Lucile
Hobson, Miss Hilda	Vengelen, Mary
Hughs, Mrs Mollie	Watkins, Mrs H E
Hutchinson, Miss Jennie	Welton, Mrs W E
Jensen, Mrs Mary	Wheeler, Grace O
Kellogg, Mrs Belle	Williams, Mrs George
Jordan, Miss Lena	Wilson, E N
Knight, Mrs Lillie	Wiseman, Miss Dora
Lambert, Mrs Stella	Winternute, Mrs Hett
Larson, Mrs B	Worsell, Miss Bessie
Lee, Mrs Bertha	Younger, Mrs G
Lott, Mrs Olive	Zuckerman, Mrs

MEN'S LIST.

Agee, Bert	Jobe, Dr V R
Akin, Johny S	Johnson, Marvin R
Ablitz, LeRoy	Johnson, Dr H C
Abelson, E	Johnson, Walter J
Alexander, Gus	Jones, Chas F
Allen, Wilson G	Kahnheimer, Ch
Allen's Theatrical Booking Agency	Kemish, Eduardo
Arnold, Dr Solon, U S N	Knopp, Geo
Arndt, George	Lawrence, C
Australian Doctors	Laws, D F
Bauman, Mike	Louis, L
Back, David Co	Lewis, D E
Baker, Wm	Livingston, Chas F
Baker, Coker	Linsay, Charley
Barochi, C	Long, Will
Bartlett, R A	Lundgren, Gus
Beck, E	McIntyre, Dr A J
Benton, Robert	McClure, R F
Bliss, L C	MacFarlane, W R-2
Boring, O W	Manning, C H
Bowmah, A	Manning, Julain
Bowen, Louis	Marriage Journal
Boyd, James	Marshall, John
Bradley, F H	Marshall, A
Britt, W L	Martin, B M
Brooks, Henry G	Martin, J M
Brown, Ed	Mason, H
Brown, J M	May, Chas F
Brown, W H	Melby, Will
Buchtell, Jno	Miller, Geo M
Bundy, Fred	Morris, M J
Burnam, P T	Morris, Jack
Burton, Harry S	Murphy, John P
Catching, A L	Nash, W G
Cather, John	Nelson, John
Carpenter, E	Normoyle, Simon
Christians, Willie	Oregon Prunegrowers' Association
Clark, D M	Osburn, Guy
Cole, Frank	O'Brien, Guy
Cook Zachariah	O'Neill, James
Corneil, Arthur	O'Connor, A
Coughlin, Joe-2	Page, C C
Crafford, J G	Parsons, Samuel
Crane, Abner V	Penn, W G
Dyer, M E	Perfection Incandescent Gas Lamp Co
Dallies, Con Co	Perry, O G
Davis, T H	Phelps, C M-2
Day, B F	Phans, Austin
Denny, Wm	Pierce, A E, M D
Dick, Paul	Plumb, H F
Dickson, A	Power, Jean
DuBois, W F	Preizer, H W
Ellis, E E	Pratt, Irving H
Elliott Medicine Co	Purdy, Wm
Evald, Mr	Reid, Eugene F
Falk, Edgar W	Robinson, Curtis
Fenthere, Mr	Robinson, Rev A S
Fell & Son	Sackett, M V
Fisher, Milton H	Sessions, Capt Horace-2
Fowler, E	Singer, A
Forrester, Harry	Smith, Fred
Gavin, J W	Stewart, D J
Geisert, Charley	Surrutt, Geo W-2
Gibbs, John D	Sullivan, Hon M D
Goode, N B	Svenson, Carl
Graham, David	Tamm, Karl
Grebe, Chas	Thordson, John
Green, E W	Tobey, Will
Hyatt, H H	Topsley, Daniel L, or D T
Hackney, James	Toisey, Willan
Haggerty, F J	Trabis, H S
Handler, Oscar	Watson, W J
Haney, Wilburt	Webster, J
Hansen, A	Wenton, W L
Harold, Aloys	Whitworth, Percy
Heffernan, W H	Wicander, G A
Heisinger, G H	Wilkinson, Wm
Hemman, Ernie	Williams, J C
Hopkis, J T	Worner, Johnny
Holman, N Baker	Yost, Chas
Houghton, Mr and Mrs H	Yates, Al
Hunt, S W	Young, Fred
Hunsaker, W L	Young, Lester
Imlah, John	Zirbel, Frank
Ingralsen, F G	

PACKAGES.

Brown, H
Catching, A L (foto)

A. B. CROASMAN, P. M.

A Doughty Antagonist.

Indianapolis Press.

M. Fernand de Rodays, the Paris editor whom Count Boni de Castellane threatens to thrash and who laughs at the Count's wrath, is a quiet, cool gentleman, who has fought many duels and who is well known for his courage and dexterity of aim under fire. He is the responsible editor of the Figaro, which paper has published certain matters concerning the financial and other private matters of the Count, calculated in no wise to tickle that young nobleman's vanity.

FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE

WHY COMMISSION SHOULD INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS OF ORIENT.

Senator Gallinger's Report in Favor of the Bill to Authorize Appointment of Such Body.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—In reporting to the Senate the bill providing for a commission to investigate the commercial and industrial conditions of China and Japan, Senator Gallinger, for the committee on commerce, says:

"During the past few years the attention of the American people has been forcibly directed to the necessity of increasing the foreign commerce of the United States, and it has already been demonstrated that by properly directed efforts we shall be able to secure a largely increased export trade, both of our manufactured goods and the products of American farms. It goes without saying that the growth of our foreign trade will largely promote the prosperity of all classes of our people, and the Orient, by practically common consent, holds the largest promise for our commercial expansion.

"In his last two annual messages to Congress, President McKinley earnestly recommended the appointment of a commission similar to those sent to China by Germany, France and Great Britain, clothed with authority to do similar work. The demand has likewise come from a large number of trade organizations and commercial bodies scattered all over our country, and the bill under consideration is in response to the recommendations of the President, and the demand thus made by the men who are most directly connected with the export trade of the United States.

"The bill contemplates that the commission shall be composed of representative business men selected from the five geographical divisions of the country, so that they shall represent all our people and all our industries. It is proposed to make such an appropriation as will enable the commission to spend a sufficient time in the Orient to acquire in detail the information needed by our exporters for the intelligent and successful prosecution of the business, and the purpose is also to gain information that will open the markets of the Orient to the products of our farms, and to this end it is to be hoped that at least one representative of the agricultural interests of the country shall be appointed on the commission.

"Careful investigation and inquiry lead to the conclusion that three of the commissioners should spend at least a year in China, while the other two can be profitably employed during that time in Japan, with the possible addition of doing work in some of the adjacent countries of Eastern Asia. This contemplates a vast amount of definite and detail work, leaving no time and providing no means for display and entertainment except so far as, to a limited degree, an exchange of courtesies may be found necessary to maintain our dignity as a nation among those Eastern peoples. The purpose is to make it a business commission, the chief end in view being to gain desirable information and secure concessions that will result in the widening of our markets in this most inviting and attractive field. It is hoped that, under the direction of the President of the United States, and acting in conjunction with our diplomatic and consular agents, the commission will be able to secure modifications of some of the existing conditions, and thus open the way to the expansion of our commerce.

"It is expected that the report of the commission will constitute an encyclopedia of trade conditions and suggestions that will be of great value to all Americans interested in our commerce with Oriental countries, and to this end the small amount of money that will be spent in connection with the enterprise is not worth considering.

"Deeply impressed with the importance of the proposed inquiry, and believing that it will have a far-reaching and beneficial influence upon American trade, your committee report the bill back favorably in an amended form, with a recommendation that it pass."

NEGLECT OF THE PIONEERS

Early Scheme for a Pacific Coast Republic.

CLACKAMAS, Feb. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Occasionally I see letters in The Oregonian in regard to the early history of Oregon, and while each writer seems to view things from his own standpoint, yet in this way many facts and conditions are spoken of that are not found in histories of Oregon. It is the little things that make up the great histories, and without these little things no history is complete. We learned more truly the history of the settlement of the Ohio Valley from individual history and experience than from what came more specially before the public view, and I have often thought that if the early visitors to this Coast—trappers, prospectors, explorers and those who perchance may have came here to ascertain the adaptability of the country for homes for civilized men—had written out their experiences and observations while on the coast, the world, and especially the people of the United States, had been better for it. But as such did not do so, save to a small extent, doubtless many events which would go directly to make up the early history of this country are now silently resting in oblivion's grave.

Although I may not be able to speak directly of some things from personal knowledge, yet when I came to this valley, in 1846, I was told by some of those who had been on the Coast for a number of years, that a few years prior to this date an attempt had been made by a few bold and designing minds, then residing here, to form all the territory west of the Rocky Mountains and south of the Russian possessions, and north of San Diego, into a republic. I was permitted to see some of the correspondence that passed on the subject between men here in Oregon and others in Monterey. The plan seemed to have been well laid, but, like many other attempts at the impossible, failed for lack of support. This same matter was referred to occasionally by settlers here in early years, but not in an approving way—only as a reminder to Uncle Sam that he was neglectful of our dearest interests here; that we were in danger of starvation and annihilation from Indian depredations; that most any foreign foe could easily take possession of this whole Coast, greatly to the detriment of our own Government.

We may have talked a little more than was prudent, had we really been in earnest; but, earnestly or otherwise, such talk seemed to have had, to some extent at least, the desired effect; for one day in 1849, when I had mounted my Indian pony and rode to where East Portland now stands, I met Colonel Loring, with a regiment of United States infantry. The Colonel called a halt and sent Lieutenant Jones across the river to look after some haberdasher's ware for the regiment, then marched on toward Oregon City. I crossed the river with the Lieutenant and was with him the remainder of the day. He seemed cautious in his conversation, as if he expected some wrong; but as we proceeded on the road to Oregon City he became more talkative and inquired if there was any truth in the report of a threatened rebellion here on our part in earlier years. I told him that "when I came here in '46 I learned that a feeble attempt had been made some years before to form an independent government on this Coast, but the atttempt had failed, yet such feeling was not dead, and I had heard the same feeling expressed by some since I came." At this the Lieutenant seemed to lose his self-control, and in a rage declared "in such event we will hang every one of you."

After the Lieutenant had ceased his threats I thought it was my time to say a few words. I told him "that those who had lived in this country as long as some of us had lived here were not easily scared at the howl of wolves; that such threats would only fall on fearless ears; that we crossed the plains to this Coast unprotected by our own Government, a protection which we as citizens had a right to expect; that we faced starvation when we got here, and had fought the Indians single-handed for the right to live, and at times it seemed to us we were left to shift for ourselves; yet we tried to exercise patience and to cultivate hope. We do not need Uncle Sam's help now as in the past, but as it has come I believe all the people will accept of it in good faith."

After this the Lieutenant was silent the rest of our journey together, seeming to feel that Uncle Sam had really been neglectful of the pioneer.

It was a mystery then to all of us, and is still a mystery to those of us who survive, how a government so benevolent as ours could neglect to protect the citizen emigrant in the settlement of new territory so distant as Oregon, and so fraught with danger. It is true the people made the Government, but they made it for protection for themselves. And when the people fail to receive the protection the Government was made to give them, let the historian not complain if murmurings arise.

WILLIAM PHILLIPS.

FEBRUARY WEATHER.

Last Month Was "Dry," and the Temperature Only an Average.

DATE.	Temperature. Max.	Min.	Mean	Precipitation in inches and hundredths	Character of weather for the day
1	47	30	38	..	Pt cloudy
2	49	39	44	.22	Cloudy
3	50	43	46	**	Cloudy
4	50	40	45	.26	Pt cloudy
5	47	42	44	**	Cloudy
6	47	37	42	.16	Pt cloudy
7	44	36	40	.01	Cloudy
8	52	40	44	.12	Cloudy
9	49	43	46	.01	Cloudy
10	55	44	50	.01	Cloudy
11	51	40	46	**	Clear
12	43	35	39	.01	Cloudy
13	44	33	38	.20	Pt cloudy
14	38	24	31	.02	Cloudy
15	34	19	22	.12	Cloudy
16	29	20	24	..	Cloudy
17	34	26	30	.11	Cloudy
18	39	31	35	.63	Cloudy
19	48	34	41	.06	Cloudy
20	55	42	48	.20	Cloudy
21	57	43	50	.48	Cloudy
22	54	43	48	.09	Pt cloudy
23	54	40	47	..	Pt cloudy
24	53	40	46	.07	Cloudy
25	49	39	44	..	Cloudy
26	51	41	46	.06	Cloudy
27	49	38	44	**	Cloudy
28	56	44	50	.26	Pt cloudy
Mean	47.1	36.6	41.7		

**Indicates trace of precipitation.

Summary.

Mean atmospheric pressure, 30.14; highest pressure, 30.51, on the 16th; lowest, 29.72, on the 19th.

Mean temperature, 42 deg.; highest temperature, 57, on the 21st; lowest, 19 deg., on the 15th. Greatest daily range of temperature, 17 deg., on the 1st; least daily range, 5 deg., on the 5th.

The following table shows the mean temperature for the month of February in the years given:

1871.....47	1879.....44	1887.....32	1895.....43
1872.....42	1880.....38	1888.....44	1896.....46
1873.....50	1881.....46	1889.....44	1897.....42
1874.....44	1882.....39	1890.....38	1898.....46
1875.....41	1883.....34	1891.....37	1899.....39
1876.....45	1884.....37	1892.....43	1900.....43
1877.....46	1885.....47	1893.....37	1901.....
1878.....45	1886.....46	1894.....38	1902.....

Mean temperature for this month for 29 years, 42 deg. Average excess of daily mean temperature during month, 0; accumulated excess of daily mean temperature since January 1, 155 deg; average excess since January 1, 3 deg.

Prevailing direction of wind, south; total movement of wind, 6516 miles; maximum velocity, 43 miles, south, on the 6th.

Number of days with .01 inch or more of precipitation, 20.

The following table shows the total precipitation (in inches) for the month of February in the years given:

1871.. 5.06	1879..13.22	1887.. 2.81	1895.. 1.01
1872..12.12	1880.. 5.67	1888.. 2.42	1896.. 3.44
1873..12.58	1881..13.36	1889.. 1.07	1897.. 5.57
1874.. 4.28	1882..10.49	1890.. 9.85	1898.. 6.53
1875.. 1.99	1883.. 2.34	1891.. 6.26	1899.. 4.20
1876.. 7.50	1884.. 4.88	1892.. 2.48	1900.. 3.36
1877.. 7.56	1885.. 6.72	1893.. 5.19	1901.....
1878..12.16	1886.. 1.96	1894.. 5.16	1902.....

Average precipitation for the month of February for 30 years, 5.84 inches; total deficiency in precipitation during month, 2.48 inches; total precipitation from September 1, 1899, to date, 26.75 inches; average precipitation from September 1 to date, 5.87 inches; average precipitation for 24 wet seasons, 46.83 inches; greatest 24-hour precipitation, 0.74 inch on the 17-18th.

Number of clear days, 1; partly cloudy days, 7; cloudy days, 20. No frost.

G. N. SALISBURY, Observer.

NEW YORK'S FIREMEN.

Great Bodily Strength and Vigor Are Required of All Applicants.

Collier's Weekly.

In New York applicants for appointment as firemen must be recommended by four citizens well acquainted with the applicant before they are admitted to their examinations. These consist of several severe tests, and require great bodily strength and vigor. Those who pass them merely become eligible for possible requisition in case of a vacancy. When a candidate is called to fill a vacancy he must first serve a probationary period of one month, during which he is assigned to a company for work. In addition to that he must attend daily at the Firemen's School of Instruction, where candidates are put through a course of special athletics, such as climbing ladders, handling scaling hooks, sliding down hose pipes, jumping into life nets and the like. If by the end of the month the chief instructor and the foreman of their company report the candidates fit for fire duty they are appointed as privates, or firemen of the fourth grade, with a salary of $800. In the third grade the salary is $1000, in the next $1200, and in the first $1400.

One year at least must be spent in each grade. Removal can only be for cause, subject to review by the courts. All members of the New York Fire Department are beneficiaries of a relief fund, which now amounts to nearly $1,500,000. In case of disability a fireman receives half his pay. One-half of his yearly pay, likewise, goes as a pension to his wife or children in case of death. In addition to this there is a life insurance fund yielding an immediate amount of $1000 to the widow or children of any deceased fireman.

In spite of the uncommon risks run by all firemen the mortality among them is exceedingly low. The dangers of their calling seem to be more than compensated by their rugged health and hardihood. As a rule they are able to endure without serious consequences pain and exposure that would kill an ordinary business man or at least ruin his health for life.

Coal Scarce in France.

New York Tribune.

The exceptionally high price of coal at Marseilles, together with the fact that a poor quality is usually offered there for sale, leads the United States Consul in that city to recommend efforts by American operators to supply the market. The price per ton late in 1898 was $5 71, and 86 cents more was charged for putting it on board vessels in the harbor. But before the close of 1899 the best quality of Cardiff coal at Marseilles was $8 50, with a prospect of a rise still higher.

UNIONS OF PRODUCERS

ESSENTIAL TO THEIR LIFE AND PROSPERITY.

Growers Must Co-Operate to Meet Conditions Brought by Organization of Capital in Trusts.

Without discussing the good and bad points of the trusts, it is evident that industry is embarking upon a new departure, says the Orange Judd Farmer. The old idea that competition was the life of trade was wrong. Economists of all schools are now agreed that competition was too often the death of industry. Co-operation has taken its place very successfully among millions of laborers and producers, especially in England and on the Continent, resulting in a decrease of expenses in production and in getting goods from producer to consumer, this saving being shared between the two to their mutual advantage.

In the United States our business men and capitalists have been the first to realize the possibilities of co-operation or combination, but have too often abused the idea through overcapitalization and attendant abuses. Our farmers and the producing classes generally have been forced to consider this matter in all its bearings. They now realize the possibilities in it for them, and how to realize these possibilities of co-operation is now the great problem that is agitating farmers and farmers' organizations everywhere.

What the producer or farmer wishes to accomplish is this: He wants to get his goods to the consumer, and get his pay for the same, with the least expense, without unnecessary delay, and in such manner that supply may be regulated to the demand, and the farmer thus receive a fair return for his labor without obliging the consumer to pay exorbitant prices. Now, this is a hard nut to crack, but several cracks are being made in it. In the Orange Judd Farmer of January 20, for instance, a short paragraph noted the remarkable success of the California Raisin-Growers' Association. While some of the improvement in values would have come anyhow, it is true that through co-operation this great industry in California has been lifted out of the slough of despond and put onto so substantial a basis that the land devoted to raisin vineyards has advanced by $50 to $125 per acre in value. The Five States Milk Producers' Association has enabled the farmers who shipped to Greater New York to get $5000 a day more for their milk, for weeks at a time, than by the old method. But for the Fruitgrowers' Unions, the great citrus fruit industry of the Pacific Coast would have long since collapsed. The present effort of the dried-fruit combination promises to succeed. The prunegrowers of California have formed a powerful organization, backed by plenty of capital. It promises to be one of the most potent factors in co-operative selling of fruits.

Other instances more or less successful could be cited. Nor is it anything against these efforts that the farmers interested in them are far from being perfectly satisfied. In all these organizations there is more or less complaint among the members that the thing does not pan out as well as it ought to, and among the officers or managers that the members do not support the work as perfectly as they should. In spite of all this, however, great progress is actually being made, while sentiment in favor of co-operation is rapidly ripening among farmers everywhere.

The latest incident is afforded by the Oregon Hopgrowers' Association. This is a corporation with an authorized capital of $100,000, instituted by the growers of hops in Oregon, through which they hope eventually to mobilize the entire crop of that state, so that they can sell it to the best advantage in either the local, Eastern or foreign markets. This practical movement is one the necessity for which was long since pointed out by the Orange Judd Farmer. We see in this hop industry much the same condition that exists in other lines.

A few big concerns, producing large quantities of hops themselves, are in a position to manipulate the market to their own advantage, so as to force outside growers to accept the terms dictated by the syndicate or force them out of the business. In other words, the little fellows have got to combine to fight the trust that seeks to monopolize them. A single hopgrower is alone unable to accomplish much; but united with his fellows, and controlling, say, two-thirds of the supply, hopgrowers will be able to protect themselves against further extortion and gradually to improve their returns and prospects. Their example will doubtless be followed in Washington and California, and perhaps the growers in New York State may even be induced to organize in self-defense. A federation of these state hopgrowers' corporations would enable the American producers of this special crop to absolutely control its distribution, and, to some extent, its price. Of course, the latter, in the long run, will be mainly governed by the world's supply. Nor is there anything fanciful or impractical about this idea. The hop crop is one that lends itself to such a scheme because by its very nature it can be readily baled, stored, sampled, borrowed on, etc.

In much the same way it should be possible to organize and control the distribution of the tobacco crop of the country, and of many other nonperishable specialties grown in more or less restricted areas. Of course, the problem of dealing with perishable articles like milk, fresh fruits, etc., is more complicated, because of their perishability. But because this problem is thus difficult, it is all the more necessary for producers of perishable stuff to solve it.

The subject is certainly one that is rightly to command increased attention among farmers and producers everywhere. Object as we may against the trusts, legislate against them as we may or regulate them to our heart's content, it is still true that to compete with them farmers must likewise combine. Only diamond will cut diamond. If, for instance, tobacco-growers do not co-operate in some sensible and effective scheme of self-defense, it will be only a few years before the value of every acre of tobacco in the United States will be absolutely dictated by the American Tobacco Company. Such a result is as sure as fate, nor do we see how we can prevent it through associated effort ourselves. Self-defense and self-interest are forcing our farmers to co-operate. Progress should be slow but sure.

The producers of each crop or specialty should first unite and work out the details of their immediate salvation. As time goes on these various interests should federate and work together so far as their common welfare is concerned. Ultimately it would be possible for agriculture to be the best-organized and best-regulated of all industries, instead of being, as now, the poorest-organized and the most defenseless. Along with the economic and financial improvement that would grow out of organized agriculture, would go an increase in the attractiveness and popularity of country life and a large improvement in the farmers' political position and power. We do not believe in a farmers' party; but we do believe that frequently measures arise that would benefit agriculture in particular and the country's welfare in general, which farmers should be in a position to compel all parties to adopt or vie with each other in putting into effect.

A Surplus of Diamonds.

New York Tribune.

The relief of Kimberley may exert an important influence on the diamond trade, though what it is to be cannot be exactly foreseen. The mines now will be restored to their normal productiveness, which is far above the world's normal demand for diamonds. The market is only fed with what it will take; prices are not allowed to fall off ruinously, though they have fluctuated through deeper and deeper stages of decline since the abundance of the Kimberley supply was made manifest. It is not known how many barrels of diamonds the syndicate holds in its treasuries.

BAGPIPES ON THE VELDT.

Strangely Enough, Englishmen Used Them Before the Highlanders.

London Daily Mail.

The Cockney "Tommy" whose fortune it may be to sleep for the first time alongside the tents of a Highland Regiment may well be excused if he awakes under the mistaken impression that the Transvaal felines are at their "'wauling." The fact of the matter is that the "braw laddies" have from time immemorial turned out to the sound of the national bagpipe, the sound of which, as heard in the cold gray light of a winter's morning, is the reverse of cheering.

The invariable tune (?) of this reveille in all Highland Regiments is the caustic old Jacobite march, "Johnny Cope," the words of which run:

Hey, Johnny Cope, are ye wauken yet?
Or are yer drums a-beatin' yet?
'Gin ye are wauken I will wait,
An' I'll meet ye at the coals in the mornin'!

The "Johnny" referred to is the celebrated General Cope, the Hanoverian leader who was so soundly thrashed at Dunbar by the Young Pretender.

Strangely enough, Englishmen had the bagpipes long before the Highlanders. Then, as British musical art developed, the pipes were passed on across the Tweed. They were first used in battle by the Scottish forces at the battle of Bairinnes, in 1594, although tradition has it that they formed one of the most potent elements in the rout at Bannockburn. Since that date they have done wonders in cheering and rallying the Highland forces at critical moments, notably at the battles of Quebec (1760) and Porto Nuovo (1781), and, still later, at the celebrated charge of Dargai, on October 21, 1897.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

THE PERKINS.

J J Utzinger, Butte	F Wood, Chicago
J Briscor, San Fran	Miss Merrill, San Fran
P Macho, San Fran	A R Lyle, Crook Co
M Etcheverry, Boston	F Brundel, Butte
Y McChesney, St Paul	G Bredhoff, Butte
W T Dickson, S F	Mrs H P Ely, Kelso
J R Robertson, Forest Grove	A L Emery, San Fran
G H House, Great Falls	M Kammeyer, Scappoose
A J Johnson, Astoria	Mrs M Kammeyer, do
H Kratz, Clatskanie	Mrs A P Memoether, Billings, Mont
J M George, Kalama	Dr Siddall, The Dalles
C Cooley, Pittsburg	J H Townsend, Dallas
E E Latourett, McMin	E R Hickson, Moro
L M Rankin, Minnaplis	Mrs W H Mansfield, Nampa, Idaho
Mrs L M Rankin, do	Sam Shaw, the Shaw Opera Co
A D Edgar, Dawson	Mrs Sam Shaw, do
H W Gilbert, N Y	W M Jennings, Omaha
L J Palmer, Chicago	J D Hattor, Boise
Mrs L J Palmer, do	Dr W B Morse, Salem
J Burchard, Ruport	Mrs W B Morse, do
Mrs J Burchard, do	Mrs J E Brayheimer, Corvville
B Bissinger, Pittsburg	Mrs H M Roberts, do
F B Flowers, Kan City	F Brightman, Gold Hill
H Smith, Taco