

The legislature of Washington territory adjourned on Friday night, or rather at three o'clock on Saturday morning.

A few days before the election in Ohio Ewing said: "I cannot understand the grounds of this singular Republican confidence." He can now.

Treeless Iowa is being transformed into a forest covered country by a law which results certain taxes for five years on every acre of fruit, and ten years on every acre of forest trees that have been planted, and \$200,000 has been remitted in taxes.

Petersburg, Va., and vicinity has been suffering for lack of water for three months. Wells and streams are drying up, and in some of the adjacent counties people are compelled to travel for miles in vehicles to secure water for family use. Prayers are being offered in the churches for rain.

A man was found at Newport, Ind., with a bullet in his head. A hint at the manner of his death was given by the evidence of an interrupted game of poker. In his hand was four kings, while four queens lay near by, having probably been dropped by his exasperated antagonist and murderer.

Little or no statement is yet noticed in the remarkable flow of gold to this country from Europe. Should the receipts continue during this month and next on the same scale as during September and October, it seems probable that the total importations by the close of the year will not fall much short of \$80,000,000.

According to official estimates the amount that will be required to run the Postoffice Department for the next fiscal year will aggregate \$29,930,000, while the revenue from the postal service will not exceed \$32,210,000, thus leaving a deficit of nearly \$2,280,000 to be supplied by Congressional appropriations.

W. P. Greenlow, one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens in Sherman, Texas, suicided on the 14th by taking morphine. The cause is said to be criminal intimacy between his wife, one of the most beautiful women in Sherman, and Rev. Conrad Hauery, a noted and eloquent divine of Texas.

Clearing-house reports from fifteen of the leading cities of the country indicate an enormous increase of business throughout the country. For the first week in November the transactions reported foot up a billion of dollars. The Pacific coast has not yet been reached by this wave of prosperity, but it will reach here in time.

A late telegram says that diphtheria is making great ravages in Russia. It has attacked such a high proportion in certain sections that the percentage of deaths far exceeds the births. In Odessa since May the disease has snatched away seventy-six per cent. of children. The percentage in other places was fifty. A large number of adults have died, and the disease seems to be growing more deadly daily.

Gen. Singleton, a prominent Democratic Congressman from Illinois, desires to put Gen. Grant at the head of the army, with a salary of \$22,000 a year, and says he finds many Democrats who are just as anxious as he is in the matter, and if no one else leads in the matter, he himself will introduce a bill for that purpose. The "Grant boom" has got away with the Democrats, and they are terribly anxious to "provide" for him.

The Commercial Bulletin of the 15th discredits the statement that the Rothschilds have promised financial aid to the Nicaraguan canal scheme, having, it says, the best of reasons for so doing. It says the project for the river and railroad route for ships from Cape Tibouron to the Gulf of San Miguel is now under consideration of American citizens, with good prospects of its being adopted and put before the public. The cost will not exceed \$35,000,000.

"Death to the Union - H. Toombs." A Chicago special of the 12th says: The Daily News, having invited the governors of various states, and prominent southern men, to send in their congratulations on Gen. Grant's return, has received a number of such congratulations, including one from Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, another from Gen. James Longstreet, and the following from Hon. Robert Toombs: ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 12.

M. E. Stone, Editor: Your telegram is received. I decline to answer, except to say: Present my personal congratulations to his country on his safe arrival to his country. He fought for his country honorably and won. I fought for mine and lost. I am ready to try it over again. H. Toombs.

Gen. Grant as an Arbitrator. During his recent visit to those countries, advice received at Washington by the last mail report that the Chinese government has sent a very satisfactory letter to Japan in relation to the Loo-Choo question. This is in response to the letter submitted by Gen. Grant to Prince Kang, giving his idea of what the terms of arbitration should be. This letter has not been made public, but the news from Japan indicates that the arbitration of Gen. Grant has averted a war and brought about peace of respectful arrangement between the two countries.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

From a carefully prepared article in the S. F. Chronicle of the 11th, we call the following in regard to the N. P. Railroad and its prospects: Some 500 hands are at work on the road in the neighborhood of Alasworth, and contracts for ties and lumber for about 500 miles of road have been let. Such a contract requires lumber to the amount of 30,000,000 feet. A large shipment of rails is due in the Columbia river from the East. The N. P. Railroad was chartered by Congress in July, 1861, to build a line from Lake Superior through Minnesota, Dakota, Montana, Idaho and Washington to Puget Sound, with a branch down the Columbia valley to Portland. Owing to the stagnation of business upon the close of the rebellion, the apathy of Congress and private capital to furnish the necessary coin to build the road, the enterprise was neglected. January 1, 1874, the Company defaulted on the interest on its bonds, and in April of the following year the entire property passed into the hands of a receiver, the road and its franchises were sold under decree of foreclosure, and bought in by a committee appointed by the bondholders, and a reorganization effected. The capital stock is fixed by its charter at \$100,000,000, divided into 1,000,000 shares at the par value of \$100 each. Of this \$51,000,000 is preferred stock and \$49,000,000 common stock. The time named in the charter for the completion of the road was July 1, 1879, and in one year from that time Congress can interfere and take measures for the speedy completion of the work. For five years past persistent efforts have been made in Congress to get an extension of the time, but all have failed. And yet so unfavorable legislation is expected, since the bill for extension has always had a majority in its favor in both Houses of Congress, and while the work is being vigorously prosecuted, the stockholders do not fear the passage of any bill looking to the forfeiture of their own individual rights. The financial outlook is splendid. According to reports recently made, the net floating debt at the close of the last fiscal was only \$335,302. The President of the corporation asserts that this includes every liability except \$300,000 for balance unpaid for the undivided half of the St. Paul & Duluth Railroad purchased for the Co. The Co. has now completed, exclusive of siding, 720 miles of road, owns 55 locomotives and 1,137 cars.

The report of the Commissioner of Patents at Washington shows that of all the patents issued to American inventors the New England States have about two-fifths, the Middle States over one-fifth, the Western States about one-fifth, and the Southern and Pacific States a little less than one-fifth. California, with a population of less than one million, is credited with as many patents as all the Southern States, with a population of over twelve million. The inventor, therefore, is to be more active on the Pacific coast than in any other part of the United States, save New England, in proportion to population; and the time is coming when even New England will have to look out for her laurels. Under the impulse given by a greater liberality and more public-spirited policy on the part of capitalists on this coast, the inventive genius of our people will turn itself loose, and then the active-brained Yankees must take a back seat.

A San Francisco journal is authority for the statement that Sam Brannan, at one time California's chief millionaire, but of late years in more humble circumstances, is now in New York negotiating with the Mexican government through its minister, for the possession of 1,500,000 worth of land in the state of Sonora. When Mexico was in jeopardy by reason of the French invasion Brannan, who was then deaf, gave to the republic material aid, and forwarded to its agents stores and ammunition from San Francisco. This service did much towards the final dethronement of Maximilian. The Mexican government gave him at the time a voucher for so much land for the aid rendered. It is said that the land designated embraces a portion of the rich mines recently discovered, and to this circumstance is attributed the delay in giving Mr. Brannan his patent at once.

The whaling bark John Howland, which arrived at San Francisco on the 14th, from the Arctic, reports that the first officer, Edward Carrigan, was killed by the discharge of a gun while shooting a walrus. The printing establishment of the Charities in Lafayette Place, New York, was burned on the 14th, and many employes barely escaped with their lives. The janitor jumped from a window, but in the fall broke his back and was fatally injured. Total loss, \$65,000; insurance, \$50,000.

Regarding Pacific Mail affairs, it is rumored that the company will make a more favorable contract with the Panama roads for working in harmony on through freight, but that they will, with the support of the Panama company continue as an independent line.

Chas. Scheurer was instantly shot and killed on the 13th, at New York, by Miss Hoff. She called on him in Cincinnati, and demanded that he fulfill his promise to marry her. He contemptuously refused, when she fired a pistol which she held under her shawl. At the fall dead. Miss Hoff gave herself up. She says that he ruined her under promise of marriage and she does not regret her act. Scheurer was a slow keeper in Cincinnati.

The President's message is now in course of preparation. It will be shorter than usual and contain very few recommendations other than those comprised in the report of his cabinet officers. It is believed that the only important topic under the head of foreign affairs will be the reopening of the fishery question with Great Britain, and it is also understood that special attention will be directed to the advisability of legislation to authorize a resumption of funding operations. An explosion in a railroad tunnel near San Jose on the 18th, killed 24 Chinese men and horribly burned others. Two white men in the tunnel were injured but will probably recover. The accident occurred in almost on the top of the Santa Cruz mountain, in a region abounding with coal oil. A vein of oil went right through the tunnel and the soil can be ignited in places and will burn freely. New York dates says that an attempt to remove Mayor Cooper from office, on charges of official dereliction, is rumored.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

Lately special attention has been called to the improved method of instruction which is being enforced in the public schools of Quincy, Massachusetts, through the intelligent and persistent efforts of the patrons of those schools. This system receives the entire endowment of men of thought and practical knowledge everywhere. The first and main object of the school should be to increase the power of the individual, and through him the power of the State. Do our public schools as now conducted subserve this purpose? Is the knowledge imparted at our schools of a kind calculated to increase the power of the child to successfully maintain the battle of life? In other words, is the system of teaching, as now practiced, practical? Is it not the fact, generally speaking, that the teacher is the machine of the text book, outside of which he is incapable of going; and by this mode of teaching does not the child become a mere automaton to answer a few set questions, without capacity to apply what he learns to general principles? Are not our public schools, academies, universities and colleges conducted upon the same narrow plan? The dead languages and the moribund crowd out the practical, and when the young man graduates and goes out into the world to engage in the struggle of real life and business, is it not almost universally the case that he is found wholly un-fitted for it, being entirely destitute of that kind of education which increases the power of its possessor? Is not such a person the most helpless of people? The capital he brings with him from school cannot be turned to account in earning bread and butter. The years spent in accumulating it have been wasted, and he is compelled to begin anew the work of education that will bring him a subsistence. He really knows nothing that is practical. He is defective in the grammar of his own language; his Latin and Greek are of no use to him; his arithmetic has been neglected; he cannot write a legible hand, and he has no knowledge whatever of practical affairs. "He is unfit for a clerk, too proud for a laborer, and not qualified for anything above the lowest drudgery, which he despises. He imagined he was master of history, mathematics, geography, surveying, chemistry, botany, and the sciences, but he finds to his astonishment and humiliation, that he only learned from his text-books and indolent, ignorant, incompetent teachers, the mere rudiments of these studies, and that though boys and "home graduates" know much more that is worth knowing than he does. While the young man may have been dubbed the "brightest intellect" in college, "graduating first in his class," he finds to his mortification that in the active bustle of life and business he is considered almost perfectly useless.

Such an "education" is a waste of time—a gross fraud. Yet the people and property of the United States is being taxed annually more than one hundred million dollars for the maintenance of such a system taught in our common schools alone, not to mention the other millions thrown away in the support of colleges, universities, etc. We have agricultural colleges which are supposed to instruct boys in the theory of agriculture, but which in fact only teach them the stupid falsehood that manual labor is degrading. Such colleges are costly schemes, worthless alike to the individual and the State.

In speaking on this subject the Chronicle remarks that "the Prussian system makes real farmers, couples the practice with the theory, the plow with the chemical text-book, veterinary knowledge and skill in the selection and management of stock with the natural history of the horse and ox, and the economy of farm life and labor with the teachings of the school. This is true and valuable education. It tells on the class and on the State. It has in forty years converted a country naturally one of the most blank and sterile in Europe into one of the richest and most productive." The method spoken of in the outset of this article aims at the substitution of a similar practical, common-sense style of education. Instead of the stupid system generally practiced in our common schools and the child-automaton is made to do some thinking for himself outside of the routine of the text-book; and the teacher is required to work and sympathize with the pupil, keeping constantly in view the one desideratum, viz: That education must increase the power of the educated or it is worthless. As an example of the style we give this: Teacher.—I am thinking of the country south of the United States, in North America, that has the largest capital town. What is the name of that town? Class.—Mexico. Teacher.—Can you tell me something of its geography, topography, history, the language of the people, their religion, form of government and the maces from which they came? The class can tell something of these things, and the teacher will gradually unfold the rest. It will give the class a lesson in history, geography, and the Spanish conquest; and if a first-class instructor he will tell the natural products of the country, its population, capital, the means of getting to it, and many other things of practical value which will be of more use to the student in forming his mind than all the dry questions and answers within the lids of the text-books on geography and history. But, in the language of another, it requires work and intelligence and sympathy and earnestness on the part of the teacher; and no man or woman is fit to teach who does not possess these qualifications. In writing this article we have made liberal extracts from the Chronicle, which ably discusses the question.

A son of Rev. Driver, had a narrow escape from death at Eugene one day last week, by being crushed under a freight car. By some means he slipped and was falling directly under the car, when a companion fortunately caught him by one foot and held him from falling.

The Indians have burned the United States fort at Wingate, New Mexico, which is another great triumph for the "peace policy." Let forts be destroyed and brotherly love prevail.

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