

Too Much Speculation.

Among the business failures, which should be reviewed as a part of the history of the closing year, as well as the successes which have marked its passage, those most noted are those of a number of firms in New York City, which were engaged in the coffee trade.

If the cause were not known, and if it were not all apart from the ordinary causes of ordinary failures, the suspension of these old and strong firms might at this time raise a suspicion that business is not so prosperous as represented, and that another period of financial disturbance is at hand.

They imported and stored it, and held on to it until they had the whole purchasing and consuming community at their feet. The result of this close combination was to induce the raising of coffee in unaccustomed places, and to increase the yield in places where, before, its culture had been neglected.

Business is one thing; speculation another. The former, it carefully pursued, generally leads to fortune, the latter almost invariably to ruin, as it has done in the cases of these firms that turned their backs upon the legitimate trade, which had made them rich, to take up with mere speculation, which has made them poor.

A Model Lawyer.

"Squire Johnson" was a model lawyer, as the following anecdote will evince:

Mr. Jones once rushed into the office of the "Squire in a great passion. That infernal scoundrel of a cobbler, Smith, has sued me, Mr. Johnson—sued me for five dollars! I owe him for a pair of boots!"

"Then you owe him the five dollars!" "To be sure I do; but he has gone and sued me—sued me!"

"Then why don't you pay him, if you owe him?" "Because he's sued me; and when a man does that, I'll never pay him till it costs him more than he gets. I want you to make it cost him all you can."

"But it will cost you something, too." "I don't care for that; what do you charge to begin with?"

"Ten dollars; and more if there is much extra trouble." "All right! There's the X. Now go ahead!"

No sooner was the client gone than Squire Johnson stepped across to his neighbor Smith and offered to pay the bill, on condition that the suit be withdrawn. The shoemaker gladly acceded—all he wanted was his pay.

The lawyer retained the other five for his fee, and as the case was not "troublesome," made no further demands upon his client.

Ten days after Jones comes in to see how his case is getting along. "All right," said the lawyer. "You won't have any trouble about that. I put it to Smith so strongly that he was glad to withdraw the suit altogether."

How It Is Done.

"Oh, yes," said the dealer in fish politely, "we keep a millinery and bric-a-brac store as well as an oyster depot."

"You see those ducks?" pointing to a lot of ducks stripped of their feathers in rather a peculiar manner; they haven't been through a fanning mill, or a tornado; it's the ladies did that. They come in here dressed in silk and seal-skin, and say in the sweetest manner, 'Mr. — can we have a handful of duck feathers?'

"Well, that was just what puzzled me, and one day two ladies came in and one clawed all the feathers off of the neck of a beautiful mallard, and the other took all under the wings. So I stepped up politely and said, 'I would like very much to know what you are going to do with those feathers, ladies?'

"That is simple enough. I've tried a little myself. You just strip of crinoline, and put the end on in a semi-circle, grading the each feather is sewed on separate sides being economical, it is prettier."

"Do you have any call for from the common domestic goose down and is plucked from the living, and used at once. Each bit of down has a little tag to sew it on by, by the discover this it must be done through the mouth and then sewed neatly. It makes fine opera cloaks, a bit gets into the lungs it plays mischief with them."

"What colors are preferred by the feather snatchers?" "Greys and browns are in demand, but black and white are after closely. A taxidermy of the ducks and save the feathers. I'm mighty glad you don't leave me a feather now, when they wouldn't leave me a feather now, plover, everything that a father has to be stripped."

"And the brace-a-brace and clam shells for painting. All Mr. — a week I'll hear some clam shells; I have you any smooth away at I want to paint some polish oysters. Or they in oil in them. They gild the make nice ornaments out of shells, though never asked for lobster fish they are such a prettiness silvery scales, Mr. —? them out and give them to them. Why fish-scale jewelry, the go and glistens at night flowers, with silver wire, and what parties." Detroit Press.

SCIENTIFIC GLEANINGS.

The seeds of the species of vine Indian, a brief description of which, the object are in great demand, evidently being making to supply the demand.

There are no actual miles of telegraph lines in the system is intended to lay a cable across the United States with England.

A scientific which will unite in or glass. To a solution of gum Arabic of a solution of sulphate of iron in 1/2 an ounce of water.

At the beginning of the Eastern of Paris, was illustrating the Latin system of electric Air having received a fair trial, the electric has been adopted in the passenger cars of the Lyons and Mediterranean.

The Royne have tried the effect of gun in firing down two old chimneys. The first was demolished by a neck of gun-cotton, the total charge consisted of four and a half pounds of dynamite.

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A few nights ago the girls of a college got up a kicking club, championship, the one who kicked highest to be awarded a prize, and they tried to kick with force, and she sat down on a pile of straw.

There is a young girl who is a case of both febrile and a fall—then a trapeze performer.

In the Skies.

A fatal balloon accident at Paris is by cable. August Navarre was hanging on a trapeze suspended from a golden balloon Vidouville, at the height of 1000 yards, or over a mile, he missed his hold. The spectators, it is said, could clearly see the poor fellow's body in its descent and when at length it struck the ground it made a hole two feet deep, and made twice the height of a man's head from its weight, the balloon upward until it burst, and then fell.

Deaths from balloon accidents frequent enough, but a sheer one such a height has, perhaps, never been recorded. Thus, in 1875, a balloon took fire when 2000 feet high in air, and its occupant was killed; but, usually the case, he stuck to his hip till it grounded. A fearful dive however, far from being the only "balloonists" have to dread.

It is quite as dangerous to go too high as to come down too fast is shown by the voyage of Tissandier, Sivel, and Croce-Spinelli, which is, perhaps, the most remarkable on record. They started on April 15, 1875, to rival the greatest altitude reached by man. At 900 yards Tissandier fell in a faint just as his companions, who were scarcely in better condition, tossed out some ballast in a last desperate effort to surpass Glaisher's record of 11,000 yards. The balloon flew up, how high it is impossible to say, but when Tissandier came to himself his companions lay dead beside him, with black faces and bloody nostrils. They had been suffocated by the rarefaction of the atmosphere.

Glaisher's record is, therefore, discredited, for it seems beyond dispute that human life cannot be sustained much above 8000 yards. M. Godard's perilous experience in 1878—which happily resulted rather amusing than otherwise—illustrates another danger which should not be forgotten by those who take passengers sailing in the air. At 1000, at 2000, at 3000 feet high, he successively asked his companion how he felt, and was as often amazed that the amateur declared his feelings to be quite as usual. Finally Godard declared that he would go no higher, when suddenly his companion grasped his throat and demanded at least one emotion for his 1000-franc fare. The man was clearly a lunatic. At that fearful height he clambered out of the basket and around the swaying globe with the skill and carelessness of a monkey. Then he grasped Godard by the body and declared he would throw him over. Finally he drew a knife and said he would seek his "emotions" by a fall, say of half a mile. But Godard did not lose his head. He declared himself charmed with the idea, and wondered that it had never occurred to him before. But he pointed out that, however pleasant the fall might be, it would be disagreeable to be mutilated, and he suggested going 2000 or 3000 feet higher, in order that when his companion cut the gas-bag their deaths would be certain. They were then both of a mind, and as Godard threw out the ballast the balloon darted still further above the clouds. His cheerful companion's spirits rose with the balloon, and once more he climbed out on the beliving sphere, but this time with a rope about him, in order, as Godard explained, that he might not tumble before he was high enough for a thoroughly good fall. At length he perched himself just over the escape-valve, then Godard pulled the cord which opened it, the escaping gas stupefied the madman, and—the crisis was over.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

PORTLAND, December 28, 1880. Legal tenders in Portland, buying, paying, and selling at par. Silver coin in Portland banks quote at 1 per cent. discount to port. Coin exchange on New York, 1 per cent. premium. Coin exchange on San Francisco, par to 1/2 per cent. premium. Telegraphic transfers on New York, 1 per cent. premium.

Some Produce Market. The following quotations represent the wholesale rates from producers or first hands: FLOUR—Quotable in jobbing lots: Standard brands, \$5 00 best country brands, \$5 50 @ \$3 75, superfine, \$3 75 @ \$5 50. WHEAT—20 @ 27 1/2 for choice, \$1 30. HAY—Timothy baled, buying at \$16 @ \$18 per ton.

POTATOES—Quotable at 10 per bushel. MIDDLING—Jobbing at feed, \$20 @ \$25; fine \$25 @ \$30 per ton. BEAN—Jobbing at per ton, \$15 @ \$16. OATS—Feed, per bushel 42 @ 45 cts. BACON—Sides, 13 1/2; hams, Oregon \$ 12 1/2 @ 13 1/2; eastern, 14 @ 16; shoulders, 9 @ 10 1/2. LARD—In kegs, 13; in tins, 15c. BUTTER—We quote choice dairy at 27a25c; good fresh roll, 20 @ 22c; ordinary, 16 @ 20c, whether brine or roll.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, sun dried, 9a10c; machine dried, 15c. Peas, machine dried, 11a12c. Plums, machine dried, 20c. EGGS—25c per doz. POULTRY—Hens and roosters, \$4 50a5. Turkeys 18a20c per pound. Geese, \$8a9 per doz. CHEESE—Oregon, 12a15c; California, 16c. HOGS—Dressed, 5 1/2; on foot, 3a4c. BEEF—Live weight, 1 1/2 to 1 1/4 for good to choice. SHEEP—Live weight, 1a2c.

TALLOW—Quotable at 6c. HIDE—Quotable at 1a1 1/2 for all over 16 lbs. One-third off for under that, also one-third off for culls; green 6a8c.

General Merchandise.

RICE—Market quoted at China, 5a5 1/2; Sand-wich Island, 7a7 1/2. COFFEE—Cuba Rica, 17a18c; Java, 25a26c; Rio, 16a17c. TEAS—We quote Japan in laquered boxes 50a 75c; paper, 37a47 1/2. SUGARS—Sandwich Island, 9a10c; Golden C, in bbls, 10c; hf bbls, 9c; Crushed bbls, 11c; hf bbls, 12c; Pulverized bbls, 12c; hf bbls, 12 1/2c; Granulated bbls, 11c; hf bbls, 12c. SARDINES—Qr boxes, \$1 75; hf boxes, \$2 75. YEAST POWDER—Donnelly, \$18 @ gross; Dooley, \$20a22 @ gross; Preston & Merrill, \$24 @ gross.

WINE—White, per doz in case, \$3 50a4; per gal, 70c to \$1 50; Sonoma, per doz in cases, \$3 50 to \$5; per gal, 60c to \$1 50. Claret—California per gal, \$1 to \$1 25; imported per gal, \$1 50 to \$2. Sherry—Cala per gal, \$1 50 to \$2 50; Spanish, \$3 to \$4; assorted brands, \$12 to \$18; imported per gal, \$2 50 to \$7. Port—Various brands in qr cases, \$2 50 to \$5; \$1 50 to \$2; imported, \$3 to \$7.

SPRITS—Fine old Hennessy Brandy in qr cases and octaves, \$5 50 to \$7 50 per gal; Dunville's Irish Whisky in cases per doz, \$12; James Stewart & Co's Scotch Whisky in qr cases and octaves, \$4; Hennessy Brandy in case, per doz, very fine—1 star \$10, 2 star, \$17 50, 3 star \$21; Holland Gin, large cases, one to \$20; Old Tom Gin in cases, \$12; Rye Whisky, per gal, \$2 50 to \$5; Bourbon, per gal, \$2 50 to \$4; C. Cutter, \$3 25 to \$5 50; O. K. Cutter, \$4 50 to \$5. OILS—Ordinary brands of coal, 50c, high grades; Downer & Co., 37a40c; boiled linseed, \$1; raw linseed, 85c; pure lard, \$1 10; castor, \$1 50a1 60; turpentine, 60a65c.

Much unconscious humor is to be found in the menace lately sent to Lord Morris Fitzgerald by his Irish tenants, to the effect that, though he would be shortly shot, nothing would be done to frighten or annoy Lady Adela, his wife.

Warren's Music House, 92 Morrison street near the Postoffice, Portland, Or., has everything in the musical line at reasonable prices. A large stock of sheet music, books, pianos, musical instruments, band and orchestra music always on hand. Mr. Warren buys every thing direct from Eastern houses, and can afford to sell cheaper than any store in Oregon. Send for catalogue.

When you go to Portland drop in and see Abel the photographer, 187 and 189 First street. He is the leading artist of Oregon.

The weary sufferer who is patiently enduring the hot weather and longing for relief, gladly holds anything that will banish monotony or lessen pain. Warner's Safe Kidney Cure does both, and it is a true "Friend in Need" to suffering humanity. For the kidneys, liver or urinary organs it is invaluable.

A Physician's Testimony. I hereby certify that I have been a practicing physician for twenty-seven years, and for many chronic cases in my practice do recommend Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure. It was under my advice that G. W. H. M. M., editor of the Industrial Era, obtained this valuable remedy. A. A. RAMSAY, M. D. Albia, Iowa, May 26.

Santa Claus' Headquarters! Corner Front and Alder Streets, Portland, Oregon. WM. BECK & SON.



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Send for sample case of toys put up assorted in lots \$10, \$20, \$50.

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We have for sale a large quantity of mosquito grass seed which is superior for pasturage on brush lands recently burned over.

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