

DONE BY RAILROADS.

THEIR AID IN DEVELOPING WESTERN STATES.

Strong Contrast Between State of Affairs in Ante-Railroad Days and at Present—Credit to a Useful Agent of Civilization.

Before the railroads were built, it took a week to go from New York to Buffalo, nearly three weeks from New York to Chicago; and at that time, no man would have thought of making a trip from New York to the Pacific coast, except a few of the hardest pioneers, and when on such an occasion the good-bys were said, it was expected on both sides that it would be forever, said George H. Daniels, general passenger agent of the New York Central Railroad, in a recent address before the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia. If to-morrow night you should place a letter on the Pacific and Oriental mail train, which leaves New York at 9:15, you may be sure that your correspondent in San Francisco will be reading it next Monday night—four days from New York. The framers of our Constitution would have considered a man entirely beside himself, who would have suggested such a possibility.

In 1875 the States east of the Missouri River were sending food and clothing to the starving people of Kansas. Thanks to the facilities afforded by the railroads the corn crop of Kansas this year is 340,000,000 bushels.

It seems but a very few years since I made my first trip to Colorado, and stopped on my way at the home of Buffalo Bill, at North Platte, Nebraska, on the Union Pacific. At Ogallala, fifty-one miles west of North Platte, the Sioux Indians were roaming over the prairies and making more or less trouble for the early settlers who ventured so far out of the beaten paths of civilization. The Nebraska corn crop this year covers 8,000,000 acres, and the yield is 290,000,000 bushels.

Previous to the construction of the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, Northwestern, St. Paul, Burlington and other railroads that traverse that wonderful region known as the "wheat belt," there was nothing to be seen but prairie grass and an occasional band of untamed savages. Minnesota this year will ship 90,000,000 bushels of wheat, South Dakota 45,000,000 bushels, North Dakota 65,000,000 bushels, and Montana 4,000,000 bushels.

In 1849 there came across the continent reports of the discovery of gold in California, but the only means of reaching its Golden Gate was by sea around Cape Horn, or the long and perilous journey, with ox teams, across the plains, including what was then styled in our geographies the American desert, and through the hazardous mountain passes of the western part of the continent. The completion of the Pacific railroads changed all this, and opened new fields for all kinds of enterprises, in an unexplored territory stretching over more than 2,000 miles to the west, northwest and southwest of the Mississippi River, the products of which region were practically valueless until the means of transporting them were provided by the railroads.

The wheat crop of California this year is 37,000,000 bushels. The largest crop ever produced in California was in 1890, when owing to exceptionally favorable weather conditions that State produced 63,000,000 bushels. The gold output of California for the year 1899 is estimated at \$16,000,000. The vineyards and orange groves of California would be of practically little value were it not for the fact that the railroads, by their trains of refrigerator and ventilated fruit cars, make it possible to transport the products of her fertile valleys to all sections of the country.

It seems but yesterday that the railroads were completed into Portland, Ore., Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., and it is marvelous that for the year ended June 30, 1899, there was exported from the Columbia River Valley 16,000,000 bushels of wheat, and from the Puget Sound region 10,000,000 bushels. Oregon and Washington form the northwest corner of the Territory of the United States, south of the line of British Columbia, and are directly on the route to our extreme northwest possession, Alaska. The wheat crop of the States of Oregon and Washington for the year 1899 is 48,000,000 bushels. There was exported during the year ended June 30, 1899, from the Columbia River direct to foreign ports, 1,110,000 barrels of flour, and from Puget Sound points 800,000 barrels.

Colorado, which, with its inexhaustible mines of gold, silver, lead, iron and coal, forms almost an empire in itself, will produce this year of 1899 of gold, \$24,000,000; of silver, \$14,200,000; of lead, \$4,400,000; in addition to a magnificent crop of wheat, fruit and vegetables.

Without railroads, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, California, Oregon and Washington would still be the home of savages.

Smart, but Not Smart Enough.

While the President was in Milwaukee, a few weeks ago, some young-

sters thought it would be a good idea to get excused from school that they might more thoroughly enter into the spirit of the day. But how to get the excuse signed? A parent's signature was, of course, the proper thing, but both youngsters knew that in this particular case their parents were not to be relied on. Suddenly one of them had a bright idea. They would get President McKinley himself to sign the excuse. It would be easy enough to simply stay away from school on the day itself, and with an excuse for the previous absence signed by the President himself they need have no fear of being "kept in" nor punished in any way on the day following. One of the youngsters accordingly pushed his way through the crowd to the Presidential stand, and, clambering without ceremony to the top, thrust a bit of scribbled paper before anybody could stop him into the President's hand and asked for a signature. It took Mr. McKinley a second or two to comprehend the situation, but when he did he put his name to the slip without a word. The youngster slid down happy. Next day at school the two truants presented their excuse. The teacher glanced at the autograph. "McKinley doesn't run this school," she observed, and hardheartedly kept them in just the same. —New York Evening Sun.

MAN OF BLOOD AND IRON.

Such is Gen. Buller, Who Commands the British in South Africa.

The commanding figure in South Africa is Gen. Sir Redvers Henry Buller, who holds the supreme command of the British soldiers there. Gen. Buller has under him over 75,000 men—a force nearly four times greater than the purely English troops which Wellington commanded at Waterloo.

Gen. Buller is apparently fitted for the task entrusted to him. He is a man of blood and iron. His sword is crimson to the hilt. Blood, battles, brigades, bombs, blockading, barracks, bivouacs, belligerency—all are synonymous with Buller. He is entering upon his tenth campaign. In many more charters he has faced and dealt death. Over and over again he has been "mentioned in dispatches" for gallantry in action.

Gen. Buller entered as ensign the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He took part in the Chinese war of 1860, went to Manitoba in 1870 with Lord Wolsley against Riel, and three years later to the gold coast. In the Ashanti campaign of 1873 Gen. Buller took part in four engagements, including the decisive battle of Coomassie. After five years he was back again in Africa, where, leading the Frontier light horse



GEN. SIR REDVERS HENRY BULLER.

against the Kaffirs, he exhibited great personal bravery. He participated, distinguishing himself more than ever in the battlefield, in the Zulu war of 1879, and in the Boer war that followed. He was present at Kassasin and Tel-el-Kebir, at El Teb, and Tamal, and won the battle of Abu-Klea.

Gen. Buller is also known as the author of the Infantry Drill Book. He is a man of enormous energy, and of a peculiar cold daring, which springs from the head rather than the emotions. A rigid disciplinarian, stern and exacting, he is feared and respected. There is more cruelty than mercy in his composition. He personally dislikes the Boers and his campaign will be one of sternness to the end. To plant the British flag over Pretoria within the least possible time as a preparatory of painting another slice of South Africa an English red—such is his task and to that task he will apply himself with all determination in his nature.

Queen's Free Lunch.

The following amusing story is told of Queen Margaret of Italy. She recently arrived in a town, where great preparations had been made to do her honor. The Mayor was at hand to escort her to the room where luncheon was served, but the Queen declined to eat anything, saying that all she needed was a glass of water and a sandwich. At the end of this frugal repast she was about to take her handkerchief from her pocket to wipe her lips, when the Mayor, misinterpreting her action, bowed respectfully, and said: "Your Majesty need not trouble yourself. I can assure you the lunch is paid for."

Oldest Coal Mines.

The oldest German coal mines were first worked in 1195. They are near Worms. England did not begin to mine its coal until the fourteenth century.

PANAMA CONSPIRATORS.

Arton, the Tool, Pardonned by His Daughter's Plea.

Arton, the cunning tool of the greater conspirators in the famous Panama bribery scandals, has recently been released from a French prison, after serving four of the five years to which he was sentenced. His pardon is due



Mlle. ARTON.

to the untiring efforts of his daughter, Mlle. Arton, whose beauty and earnestness have both been factors in enlisting the aid of prominent statesmen and journalists. When the Panama bubble was pricked Arton, who had been warned, disappeared from Paris. Secret service agents followed him all over Europe, and finally he was run to earth and arrested in London. Of the chief witnesses against him one was poisoned and another died at an opportune time, so he escaped with a comparatively light sentence. Arton at one time claimed that two-thirds of all the French deputies and Senators were in his pay.

SMALLEST REPUBLIC.

Two and a Half Square Miles, with a Population of Sixty.

The smallest republic in the world is that of Tavolara, an island about five miles long, with an average width of a little more than half a mile, situated about a dozen miles to the northeast of Sardinia. The total population of the whole republic does not exceed 60, but they elect a President every six years, and a Council of six members, all of whom serve the state without pay. The women of this island go to the polls and vote with the men, and ever since it became a republic, in 1880, all public business has been transacted without turmoil; the elections taking place without any high party feeling or undue excitement.

In 1836 King Charles Albert of Sardinia granted the Island of Tavolara to a family of the name of Bartoleoni, but in less than half a century the inhabitants threw off the yoke of monarchy and took to themselves the right to be governed by themselves. This little war did not alarm the world, and was quite a peaceful one. King Paul I. reigned until 1882, and on his deathbed requested that none of his kin should succeed to the throne, and as no one claimed the honor four years later the people decided to draw up a constitution, and Tavolara has been a very successful little republic since.

Twelve years ago its independence was recognized by Italy, and it is to be presumed, other powers would have recognized it also if they had known of its existence. The inhabitants live principally by fishing and raising fruits and vegetables. They fear no sudden invasion, for they dispense with any army or navy, and, presumably, in case of need, would rely upon the entire population to uphold the freedom of the country.

Treed by Panthers.

Mr. Rosswell, a creamery man of Portland, met with a rather thrilling adventure a day or two since while visiting a dairy farm down the Columbia. While on his way to the farm, which is in the hills some distance back from the river, evening came on and two panthers came out of the woods seeking whom they might devour. Mr. Rosswell flew for a tree, up which he ascended till the stars winked like arc lamps. He remained there and the panthers watched below till 3 o'clock in the morning, when a native came over the hill on his way home from a dancing party, singing, "We Won't Go Home Till Morning," in a style which caused the panthers to take to their heels. Then Mr. Rosswell descended in a hurry and scared the daylight out of the wandering minstrel, who thought old Nick was after him. He ran in one direction and Mr. Rosswell in another, and if any panthers ever find either of them in that neck of woods again they can eat them and welcome.—Oregonian.

A Fatal Omission.

"I'm afraid we've offended Mrs. Lorenzo Van Rensselaer," said the editor of the Society Luminary to his assistant.

"Why, I noted the arrival at Newport of Mrs. Van Rensselaer and family."

"True, but you did not say that they took with them a retinue of servants."

—Puck.

No man who is considered half way decent ever takes a step in the wrong direction, that somebody does not notice it.

A doctor nearly always claims he is so skillful that he doesn't hurt a patient during a surgical operation.

CORN IS KING.

Interesting Facts Concerning the Great American Staple.

The word maize is derived from the Greek word zea. It is not definitely known where the plant had its origin. Humboldt asserts that it is American. Other writers claim that it originated in Asia, whence it was brought into America by the Spanish explorers. There is nothing so far discovered in the records of ruins of Egypt to indicate that the early dwellers along the Nile ever knew of the grain. In an ancient Chinese book, however to be found in the French library at Paris, corn is mentioned. In Chile corn has long been grown, and it is called zea curauca. There is an old Javanese legendary poem, "Manek Maya," which likens the grain of corn to a maiden's tooth, and to-day, in certain parts of the middle West, there is a variety known as "horse tooth."

Most of the South American Indians know of corn. Some make a sort of beer from it. A Quicha legend says that Con, son of the Sun and Moon, gave maize to man. The Iroquois say that corn was given by the Spirit of the South. One of the snake legends of the Moqui Indians tells of six bachelors, Red Corn, Blue Corn, Yellow Corn, Green Corn, Spotted Corn and Black Corn.

It is not alone with the Indians that myth and legend endure. To-day farmers of New England, and, in fact, in the newer West, have their manifold "signs" for the planting of corn. Go through the agricultural regions and you will hear them talk of planting "in the full of the moon," and the like. Among the German settlers, in certain localities, it is believed that in selecting seed-corn for the next year's corn all the stalks and refuse must be taken into the highways and instantly destroyed, but not by burning, as that would insure the presence of the black fungi, or "smut," as it is provincially termed.

Corn is the great staple of the United States. It is the most important product of the American continent, be it grains or the output of mines or factories. More acres are devoted to the raising of corn than in the annual yield of oats, wheat, barley, rye, buckwheat and cotton combined. Corn provides more employment for laborers, provides more work for distributors and makes basis for more industries and activities than any other American commodity. In the past thirty-seven years the value of the corn output has been \$15,900,000,000.

Last year (1898) a corn farm of 6,000 acres in Iowa yielded a net profit of \$50,000. About 3,800 acres of corn were actually planted. Thirty-one planters were used to put the seed in the ground, seventy-six cultivators did the "tending" and seventy-five wagons hauled the crop from field to cribs. To hold the corn cribs twelve feet wide, sixteen feet high and half a mile long were required. The corn yield of the United States for 1899 is estimated at 2,050,720,000 bushels, the number of acres planted being 81,550,000. Corn is king. —John L. Wright, in Leslie's Weekly.

The Stage.

The stage continues to form the mirror of fashion. One need scarcely take in a fashion paper if one pays constant visits to the theater. Here one can study all the varieties of the mode and the latest and newest designs. Each play seems to have its own specialty in dress, its favorite color and its favorite dressmaker.

Possibly spectators never give a thought to the fact that these constant changes of costume form no inconsiderable portion of the fatigue incurred by an actress in a long and heavy part. Dress cannot be slurred over now. Gowns must be laced and buttoned up, gloves, shoes, hats, petticoats be worn to match. It was different in the good old days, when actresses shuffled from gown over another and fastened them lightly with a button. The Japanese costume is one of the most intricate. The real Japanese lady wears three gowns, one over the other, a small portion of each showing at the neck, the gowns being artistically shaded, say, from pale pink to deepest rose, or from violet to sky blue. The chemise, too, must match, and a special touch of deep contrastive color is given by the waistband.

Nutritious Foods.

Prof. Atwater, who has devoted himself to the study for a number of years, declares that there is no single perfect food, the nearest approach to it being milk. No food, however, contains the essential constituents in right proportions, and thus we have to get what we want by combining our foods. It will be a shock to many thrifty housewives to learn that beef and eggs are among the greatest of all economical mistakes. A single dollar spent in wheat-flour will yield as much nutriment as \$30 spent on sirloin of beef. Sugar ranks next to wheat-flour as an economical food, for a dollar's worth of sugar contains as much nutriment as \$6 worth of milk, \$12 worth of eggs, or \$40 worth of oysters. In proportion to their cost oysters are almost the least nutritious of all foods. Beans and potatoes run a close race for the third place among valuable and cheap foods, and the fourth place is shared between fat, salt pork and cheese made from skimmed milk.

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It is not what we say, but what Hood's Sarsaparilla does, that tells the story. Thousands of people give the proof by telling of remarkable cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla of Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Dyspepsia, Catarrh, Rheumatism, and all other blood diseases and debility.

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Never Disappoints

The prevailing use of electricity has brought about a large increase in fires owing to crossed wires. Ten years ago there were only 60 such fires, and last year there were 958.

Statisticians have been studying up the Spanish Armada, apropos of the statement that never in the history of Europe has so large a force been sent by sea as that now on its way to South Africa. The estimate of the number sent from Spain in 1588 on the 130 ships of the Armada is this: Sailors, 8,050; galley slaves, 2,088; soldiers, 18,973; volunteers, 1,382; total, 30,493. But England is sending 49,000 soldiers and followers, without counting the crews of the transports.

It has been discovered that what may be called the first daily newspaper was a manuscript letter written by salaried correspondents and forwarded by them every 24 hours from London to the provinces. That was in the days of the early Stuarts. During the commonwealth these London letters were printed in type and circulated in large numbers. Even so long ago as 1680 the law of libel was such as to be characterized by Judge Scroggs as making any newspaper publication illegal and tending to provoke a breach of the peace.

Brooklyn stair builders have the Saturday half holiday and a wage scale of \$3.25 a day, including Saturdays, on which the same wage is paid as on the longer working days.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Judge Falconbridge, of the high court of Canada, has ruled that it is not compulsory for persons to give evidence that may incriminate themselves in liquor cases.

Friction in machinery started 295 fires last year.

Buffalo bridge and structural iron workers want the eight-hour day and \$2.50.



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