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WE WERE mistaken in another article in saying that General Grant was on the retired list. Such a matter has been talked of but not passed, it seems.

A FEW YEARS ago James R. Keene, a successful quartz speculator who had amassed millions in Nevada and San Francisco, removed to New York, as he said: to show Jay Gould that "California could furnish men able to make him take a back seat."

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

We took, from a Massachusetts paper, the other day, a statement that a letter from a Wyoming lady who formerly had been in favor of general suffrage had written home a letter that was read in the legislature of that State, showing that the result of practical experience had changed her views on that subject.

her in the position we occupy and that so many act so badly in? We do not recognize that woman was made to cope with the world's rough causes and take part in the activities of ruling and managing.

But if the effect shall be to degrade the sex we love and admire rather than to exalt humanity, then let us hesitate. With us there is no jealousy of woman it is because we recognize her transcendent qualities that we hesitate to change her sphere life and thereby, it may be, imperil them.

THE SHIPPING BILL.

The Senate has amended and passed the House bill to improve American shipping. The bill provides that customs dues shall be remitted on material used in ship building, less a per cent. When a vessel of United States registry is intended to carry mails to any foreign port, or from the Atlantic to the Pacific, touch at foreign ports, a sum not exceeding one dollar a mile, and not greater than the income received from such mail service the year previous, can be paid by the Postmaster-General, a four to six years contract being made with the lowest responsible bidder.

FAILURE OF GENERAL GRANT.

In our news column we give the fact of the failure of the firm of Grant & Ward, of which General Grant was a partner. It was a surprise to many people that he should go into business in Wall street but he no doubt wished to advance the prospects of his son, who was thought by many to be a shrewd business man.

A GREAT INVENTION.

If the statement made in different newspapers is true, that a Massachusetts man has recently invented a method for utilizing the fiber of plants that now go to waste, whereby the stalk of the cotton plant produces finer lint than the bolls, and even the root of that plant is utilized by being worked up for its fiber, and the straw of flax is made useful by means of a cheap and simple process, then a great revolution will take place in the world's industries and much that the farmer grows that is now wasted entirely can be made to pay largely and increase the productions of the farm as well as increase the world's stock of fiber and lint for manufacturing.

Charles Tappan, of Newburyport, is the inventor and his process has been explained in a lecture given by Prof. Ritchie, of Harvard. Flax boiled in paraffine soap in twenty-seven minutes came out perfectly white and any material can be prepared fully in one day. His process strengthens the fiber and less-

sens the weight much less than the former way, which destroys much of the texture it prepares. So the new process not only utilizes a much wider range of material but furnishes the world goods of a more enduring texture.

The most remarkable fact with Tappan's invention is thus described: Stalks of the cotton or corn plants or anything having a fibrous growth are of more value than the fiber. The cotton stalk thus treated yields a softer, nicer and in various respects better material for the webs of commerce than does the cotton boll. Even the root of the cotton plant can now be used for threads and cloths. The annual conflagration of the world's cotton area for getting rid of last years stalks and stumps is now to be stopped. American flax fields are to yield a harvest. Now an acre produces \$10 worth of seed, and in all some \$15-20,000,000 worth is gathered and sold.

We also read that a number of New York and Boston capitalists have taken the matter in hand and purchased a large mill in Canton, Mass., where business under the patents already secured will be started within a few weeks. Agents have been sent to the west to buy up before the annual spring farming begin all the flax product obtainable. This material will be treated at or near the place of purchase. The preparation on flax fiber and the bleaching of textiles, as well as various experimental lines of manufacture, will be comprised in the business.

This reads with such clear specification of its details that we can hope for some results to come from the new invention of great benefit to the farming population who now waste much that can be utilized. If it is true that corn stalks possess value that can be cheaply realized, and that flax straw can be worked to as great a profit as the seed yields and that other now waste substances can be made to swell the income from farming, then a new era has opened for the farmer with more hope of realizing a profit from his labors. This invention enables the preparing of substances that do not afford fiber to be spun and woven into pulp for the manufacture of paper so its uses are not limited to the preparation of fiber.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Charles E. Lane writes from Albany and asks:

1. What is the unit of measurement in the draft of farm implements? As to the unit of measurement in draft of farm machinery we should suppose it to be a horse power, which is power to raise 33,000 pounds one foot in one minute. Webster's unabridged says: "The unit by which quantities of work are measurable is the labor necessary to raise one pound through the height of one foot." "A horse power is equivalent to the work done, by continuous exertion, at the rate of 33,000 pounds raised through one foot in one minute."

2. Is there a time fixed for the National Congress to adjourn? No. On the 4th of March every odd year the term for which Congressmen are elected expires. At that time the newly elected Congressmen's terms commence. Congress meets every year and can hold its sessions all the year until the 4th of March, 1885, for instance, when the time of the present Congress expires. Each Congress holds for two years. The first Congress convened Wednesday, March 4, 1789. The present is therefore the 48th Congress. Congress is required to meet once a year on the first Monday in December, until some other day is named. When the present Congress assembled, as the term of the former President of the Senate, Davis of Illinois, had expired, Senator Anthony, of Rhode Island, was elected to fill the vacancy. In case of the death of President Arthur he will be President of the United States. The President of the Senate is Vice President in case of the death of the President of the United States. David Davis, of Illinois, was Vice President so long as his Presidency of the Senate lasted.

The Tariff Bill Defeated.

The House took decisive action on Wednesday on the Morrison Tariff bill. The same was defeated by a motion to strike out the enacting clause, which passed by a vote 156 to 151. It was a very exciting time as the question of amending the tariff is settled pretty well, that no tariff legislation shall be had this session. The House has devoted months to debate of this question which is perhaps the most important measure before Congress. The Morrison bill proposed a general reduction of duties, say twenty per cent on nearly the whole list of dutiable goods.

The Amendment.

NEW ERA, Or., May 6, 1884.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

In looking over your article in regard to suffrage irrespective to sex, I cannot but draw a little different conclusion from what you do. The one lady in Wyoming of whom you speak appears to have received a great deal of consideration, while the thousands who are well pleased with the conditions there, does not seem to be considered at all. If as she states that it only "increases the voting force of the men of the family," is there anything wrong in the man who has more than himself to represent, having more voting force than the one who is alone in the world? To fully illustrate this, let me cite two instances within my knowledge, one man has a wife and two daughters past twenty-one years of age, besides several smaller children; the other is alone in the world and has in a manner abandoned even himself, his manhood is all gone, drunkenness and vice sums him up; yet he has as much voting force as the other man who has three others to vote for besides himself. Any good reason why the women should be denied a representation in the laws to which they are held amenable I have been entirely unable to find.

I believe the matter here involves the simple principles of right and wrong, and I believe there is not much to hazard in doing right. To disfranchise for lack of intelligence and then draw the line at sex is a compliment you will excuse me from giving. There would be nothing obligatory upon women exercising their right of franchise were the amendment to carry, and women like Mrs. Cogswell could stay at home if they did not want to vote. Though I am like you, I do not believe the amendment will be adopted, as there are too many who will vote like they would have voted twenty years ago about the niggers being turned free among us, but I do firmly believe that it will eventually triumph, as humanity is steadily growing to a better understanding of the true principles of government, and more and more are they beginning to ask is a thing right, instead of asking, has such a thing ever occurred before. I am willing to be placed upon record as seeing enough in it to work for it, and though it is dashed down I shall be ever ready to help pick it up again. Yours,

THOMAS BUCKMAN.

Agricultural Report—Crop Prospect.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Returns to the Department of Agriculture for May make the prospect nearly as favorable as in April. The general average was within five per cent, of the standard of full condition. May average is 94. It was 83 1/2 in 1883. Barring changes for the future, winter wheat product will be about 350,000,000 bushels. Indicated temperature for April was lower than usual, and the low lying lands saturated with moisture, retarding growth, was drained. Wheat soils are nearly everywhere bearing vigorous and healthy growth; few reports of injury by fly have been received, but the aggregate loss from insect will be a trifle. Winter wheat in New England is a scarcely appreciable quantity; its condition is quite uniformly higher. Middle and Southern States make the average about 90 to 100; Ohio basin makes a less favorable showing, with little difference in the States on the north side of the river. The States which have a large production, make the following averages, 100 representing, not an average condition, but a full stand of healthy plants of medium growth; New York 97, Pennsylvania 98, Kentucky 99, Ohio 87, Michigan 85, Illinois 87, Missouri 94, Kansas 103, California 95. Seeding of spring wheat is nearly finished in Minnesota. It has been delayed by heavy rains and low temperature. In Dakota it is not yet completed. Returns of area will be made on the 1st of June. Rye promises fully as well as wheat. General average 96. It is several points higher than wheat in the principal States west. The general average for barley is 101. It is 100 in New York, 100 in Pennsylvania, 98 in Michigan and 103 in California. Meadows and pastures generally are promising, though failing to come up to the standard of health growth, and the unimpaired condition of spring plowing is a little delayed by low temperature and excessive moisture in undrained soils and tenacious soils. For the entire country it is two-thirds completed. In an average year 72 to 75 per cent. should be done on the 1st of May.

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