THE ITEM OF WHEAT SACKS.

ASTORIA......JAN. 24, 1874

The Pacific coast is properly much interested in the expense of sacks in which to send off its surplus grain, and steps have been taken to have the duty on bagging removed.

Recent dispatches indicate some doubt about the matter being accomplished, on the ground of the government's indebtedness, and consequent need of the present duties on all imports, as well as this particular article.

There are two theories of levying taxes on imports—one for the purpose of revenue, and the other as a protection, or encouragement, of home industry. Both are applicable to imported bagging. The revenue is needed-and, probably, jute can be cultivated profitably in California, if once started. If, however, it should be deemed impracticable to produce the raw materials, then the manufacture of bagging should still be encouraged, as this coast is as near some of the countries producing jute as are the present foreign manufactories, and Yankee machinery should be . able to compete with the world.

'It is no part of the policy of the United States to levy a tax upon the : surplus products of the country when sent: abread, but a duty on the necesrsary sack, or case, containing the product, is virtually an export duty, and should be relieved. Under prescent laws and regulations, bagging manufactured in the United States, and sent foreign, is relieved of most of the duty on the raw material imported and used in its manufacture. At present, on foreign articles imported, duty paid-and then shipped foreign before passing out of the government warehouse, there is allowed a drawback equal to the duties; less one per cent. On the shipment (foreign), of articles manufactured in the «United States, from imported materials, there is allowed a drawback equal to the duty on the imported material, less ten per cent. Under this latter provision, the fish packers on the Columbia river are allowed a drawback on the fish cans sent foreign. Under the same provision, bagging, manufactured here from the imported material, would be estitled to a draw-Jack on being exported. But there is no provision for drawback on the imported manufactured article, when scattered through the country and again collected for export. A very little modification of present laws, however, would admit of drawback on the article of bagging, at least. A shipper could be allowed to export with a drawback nearly equal to the duties, the same number of bags withdrawn from the warehouse. For instance: a shipper has the bags brought to the Custom House direct, or in bond, where they remain until he wishes to fill them, when they could be withdrawn, by paying the duties or giving bonds, to export them, After being filled, a certificate of the proper officers, of their lading on a vessel for export, and proper returns from the port of destination, would cancel the bonds, or allow the exporter his drawback, as the case might be,

The applicants for drawback might be limited to the amount taken from the warehouse at that port, We can see no particular difficulty in the working of the law, so modified. The proposition to bring bags in return, free of duty, will not amount to much unless there should be imposition, in the return of new bags for old ones, Very often the bags scarcely hold together long enough to carry away the second filling. Again, large numbers of the bags are destroyed by bleeding; as the sacks are stowed for the purpose of letting the grain please below water. run out, and fill the interstices be-

of duty, as there would be but few worth returning.

THE ITEM OF COAL.

California, on account of the scarcity of wood in some parts, and the growing business of the State, has steadily increased the importation of coal within her borders for several years. During the year 1873 she imported 283,630 tons of coal in addition to 170,000 tons furnished from the California mines. Of the amount imported 105,719 tons were from the beds of the Pacific coast, mostly Vancouver, Bellingham bay, Seattle and Coos bay. The latter mines, in Southern Oregon, being first among the above four mentioned places. The remainder of the importation, 177,911 tons, was brought from across the ed coal to California, last year, was carried long distances, at a heavy expense of freight. This importation could be lessened

very materially by the encouragement of home industry; by the development of the mines on the Pacific coast. Not less than two million, (perhaps three million) dollars, were sent abroad from California in the year 1873, for the one article of coala good sized debit, certainly, against the wheat shipped from this coast. The people, and the State of Oregon, should put forth some effort to check this drain upon the wealth of the the North, to Coos bay on the South, coal crops out in many places in the coast range, and only await capital and enterprise to carry it to the needy furnaces. At Seattle and Coos bay the mines are worked to a limited extent, but they should be opened on the Judiciary Committee and will the Columbia river. On the Neha- doubtless be confirmed. All parties lem, and at other places where coal is known to exist, and is accessible. Mr. Waite is 58 years of age, is a son It would be money wisely expended, of the late Chief-Justice Waite of if the next legislative Assembly of Connecticut, and is a lawyer of 38 Oregon would make a special appro- years standing. He was one of the priation for an examination of coal ledges in this State, and provide that the State Geologist, (Mr. Condon), have charge of it and report theon.

We all rejoice in our ability to produce wheat for sale, but a dollar was admitted to practice in the Susaved to the State by disembowelling preme Court of the United States, on JACKINS & Co., of the smutty coal, is more valuable motion of Caleb Cushing. Both than a dollar received in exchange for golden grain, and a State or community is not in a prosperous condition when the imports equal the exports-no matter how great the latter may be.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

-A Chicago lawyer sues a newspaof that city for damages for being called a shyster. Webster forgot to mention the word, and now the lawers are puzzled to know just what it

-The death of J. P. Hale brought to light the fact that it was a daughter of Mr. Hale who was engaged to Wilkes Booth, the man who shot President Lincoln. In Booth's digry, which was taken from his body, there was a picture of the lady.

issue of that paper has a review of a that city.

-It is stated that there is now marine vessel of enormous dimensions. In it 2,000 tons of iron and steel have been employed, It is armed with a formidable ram and will

vantage in returning the sacks, free certain from the first that this must tion business. The main Centennial be the fact, and the official report of building will cost \$4,000,000, the the fated steamer started under the will be needed, and the managers, as stern of the sailing ship, but in a mo- might be suppose, are anxious to get ment of panic, or through some terrible mistake of observation or judgment he changed his course, and the crash that sent two hundred and twenty-two persons to the bottom the Rector, Rev. T. A. Hyland, Wednesday came in a moment.

-The chief engineer of the Rio Grande Railway finds another argument in favor of narrow gauge lines in the fact that the broader the gauge greater the difficulty in passing around curves and the greater the liability of the inner wheels to "crawl over the rails." Colonel Greenwood ocean. More than half of the import- is perhaps not aware that Mr Brunel was convinced of this fact years ago, though that is no reason why it should not be brought up again when narrow gauge lines meet with so much opposition.

-Already there have been presented in the House this session over one hundred and twenty-five bills looking to the granting of pensions to widows and orphans of soldiers of the late war. This class of claims comes directly from Congress on account of the law which prescibes a limitation of time for filing the same, as this branch of the Government, under existing regulations, can only coast, and should add to our own be applied to under this contingency riches, especially in those respects in for relief. A bill will be introduced which we are peculiarly fitted by na- in a few days in the House, looking to ture for so doing. From Seattle on an extension of the time for the filing of such claims before the Pension

> -M. R. Waite, of Toledo, O., has been nominated for Chief Justice. The nomination of Waite appeared to be a surprise, but it was referred to appear to agree that it is a fit one. counsel for the United States in the Geneva arbitration. He has been a resident of Toledo, Ohio, since 1838, and is at present President of the Ohio Constitutional Convention, He Evarts and Cushing, who served with him at Geneva, endorse him cordially. He is personally well know to the present Associate Justices, and was the friend, and possessed the confidence of, Chief Justice Chase. In politics he is a moderate Republican, with strong convictions, but slight partisan predilection,

-Jonah's whale has been the cause of a very lively incident in the Academy of Sciences of Brussels, which has greatly excerised the political press of Belgium. M. Von Benenden, the eminent zoologist, has pointed out in the course of an address to the academy that the tradition which describes the dolphin as bringing to the shore human bodies with which it meets, is very ancient and widely spread, and that it bore a resemblance -The New York World is not to "the fable of Jonah." The inadoverburdened with reverence, what vertent intimation on the part of the ever its weakness may be, A recent eminent zoologist, that he doubted whether a human being swallowed sermon by Rev, Dr. Hepworth, under by a whale would be in a good conthe head of "An Ass on the Cuban dition three days afterward, has Question." Dr. Hepworth, the raised a theological storm, Two World says, "has for sometime past Professors of the Catholic Universiconducted a sort of theological circus ty of Lonvain, demanded, in a viosomewhere in the upper part" of lent letter, that the acadamy should formally censure M, Von Benenden, and the academy having, with one being constructed at Constadt a sub- dissentient, refused to do so, the two Professors of Lovain have sent in their resignations.

-The Philadelphia managers of the proposed Centennial Exhibition earry all the means for fixing to the are said to be somewhat despondent. wheat once-let alone returning for hulls of vessels large cylinders of It's going to take a heap of spondupowder which it can afterwards ex- licks, and they can't tell whether plode by electricity. Two glass eyes it's all forthcoming or not. Congess will enable the crew to find their has stipulated that the guarantee away in the vessel many are cut open, way about, and they may choose fund should be \$10,000,000. Of this without reference to any future use, their course at what depth they amount \$3,000,000 has been pledged in Pennsylvania; but some State and -The fault of the collision of the municipal jealousy has arisen in New tween sacks, so as to make the cargo Ville du Harvre and Loch Earn is York and elsewhere which is worksolid-hence, we can see but little ad- clearly with the former. It seemed ing discouragement to the subscrip-

the Captain of the sailing vessel set- memorial hall \$1,500,000, the agriculin time from the other. They were hall \$400,000. For the construction very close, and the officer in charge of such gigantic buildings much time the work fairly started by the first of February.

MARRIED.

At Grace (Episcopal) Church, in this city, by evening, Jan. 21st, 1874, Mr. W. I. Wadleigh, of Seattle, W. T., and Miss Florence L., eldest daughter of A. VanDusen, esq., of Astoria.

DIED.

In Alameda, California, January 3d, 1873, William B., son of Captain John and Mrs. H. M. Wiggin, aged 25 years.

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Portland, Jan. 1, 1874.

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26 Call and Examine for Yourselves. 54

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