

Our Increase of Population.

The London Times comments on the increase of the population in the United States as shown by the recent census, and emphasizes the fact that these 11,500,000 are not a poor, untaught mass, as would be produced in any European state by so rapid an accession of population. They are well-to-do, and as a rule well educated. It then adds: "We look with some envy on a nation whose easy lot it is to gather up the good things which fortune casts to it." If it were only the "good things," of our foreign immigration, which fortune casts us, we could not well object; but along with many good things—excellent material for American citizenship—come many bad things—a host of paupers and criminals, pestiferous communists, and ignorant and mischievous dregs of European society—to abuse the freedom of this country, and disturb its social order. We insist that our government should require a certificate of good character from every emigrant from the old world that lands upon our shores. More than this, we should insist that each immigrant be provided with a sufficient amount of means to insure him against the probability of his becoming a public charge before he can have time or opportunity to procure employment.

But, then, why should we want to increase our population at such a fearful rate (we use the word advisedly) is more than we can comprehend. We have already untold thousands more than we have any good use for. The perils to the stability of the republic from such a vast influx of dangerous elements can not be over-estimated. Nations have the natural right of self protection, the same as individuals. It is about time that the United States began to exercise that right.

Excessive Port Charges.

Oakland Times. San Francisco has always been regarded as one of the most expensive ports at which a ship could remain, and there is danger that it will become still more costly, if the seawall scheme now pending should be pushed through. The commerce of that place has been scattered on account of the charges, and it is unfortunate that Oakland has not derived a larger share of the benefits. The charges upon vessels taking on wheat at the railroad wharf have been nominal, but the inducements at Port Costa seem to be greater to shippers. We have not had much experience here in commercial matters, for the city controls but a small amount of water frontage directly. What she does control suffices to regulate charges on the rest, and it is curious that in some cases these charges are twice as much as they are at the expensive port of San Francisco. In many places, the cost of wharfage and dockage is but little more than nominal, and if that policy had prevailed in San Francisco, the city would have been the wealthier for it. The commercial papers are now calling attention to the difficulty, and may succeed in preventing the adoption of measures that would be extremely damaging to the business that has not yet been driven away.

The preparations for the inaugural ceremonies of President Garfield and the inaugural ball in the evening are on the grandest scale. The President-elect is to be escorted by 20,000 militia and fourteen companies of regular troops. General Sherman is to be the grand marshal of the parade. Gen. Hancock has been invited to be present at a reception by President and Mrs. Hayes, assisted by General Grant and Mrs. Grant previous to the inauguration, and is expected to be present.

Indian Tea in America.

The news comes from the other side that a syndicate has been formed in Calcutta, for the introduction of Indian teas, into this country and Canada. An expert is to be sent to the principal centers of trade, to confer with the large tea dealers and exporters, to find out what varieties will meet with the readiest sale here, and get them interested in the scheme. It is a matter of doubt if any scheme of this sort can be brought to success. The manner of tea manufacture in India produces an article which does not suit the tastes of the average American consumer, and radical changes would have to be made before an acceptable article to the people of this country would be produced. The Indian tea is as a rule strong and rough, and even in England where the majority of the Indian product is taken, it has to be mixed with China tea before it gets to the consumer. Attempts have been made for ten years past to introduce these teas into this country, but they have without an exception met with failure. It is true the attempts have been desultory, and consisted in sending samples or consignments to New York houses. If it was possible for Indian teas to be introduced here the syndicate could hardly have chosen a worse time at which to commence their experiment, for the tea market is and has been very much depressed, by the excessive stocks and persistent efforts of some of the older importing houses, to bear the market through the medium of heavy market sales, and thereby forcing some of the smaller importers to the wall. There is very little difference between the quality of tea-leaf raised in China, India, and the United States. The quality or flavor of the tea is developed by its treatment; for instance, English-breakfast is fermented; Oolong is not. There can be no doubt but that if the Indian tea growers will make their tea as good or as suitable to American tastes as is the Chinese article, and can sell it at a sufficiently low price, a trade can be developed. But then if the efforts of Commissioner of Agriculture Le Duc are successful, and they bid fair to be, we will in the course of time raise our own tea, and the efforts of our Indian friends will have proved nugatory.

The Outlook for 1881.

The Dalles Mountaineer. Notwithstanding the unexpected great depth of snow that has fallen this winter, and the consequent feeling of anxiety caused by the losses of stock throughout eastern Oregon and Washington, but little despondency is noticed among our people. The loss of stock will be more than repaired by the increased productiveness of the soil, and those who have suffered in that branch of industry can tickle the earth till she laughs with a golden harvest, and soon secure another foothold. We believe that full investigation will show that the losses of cattle and sheep were by no means as great as has been generally supposed, and that those who had feed have suffered but little more than ordinary loss.

The approach of spring relieves us of much further anxiety and brings with it indications of an activity in business operations unequalled in the annals of the northwest. Great as was the progress of 1880, that of the present year will far exceed it. Active work will commence on the gap of the railroad between here and Wallawalla as soon as the weather will permit, while the extensions through the eastern portions of this state and Washington will be pushed ahead as rapidly as men and money can do so. The Northern Pacific is now fully prepared to prosecute work in a lively manner, and its branch across the Cascades will be commenced as the main line is being extended on to Montana. The road between The Dalles and Portland will furnish employment for several thousand men in a few

months, while a largely increased force of men will be employed at the shops in this city.

Besides the railroad building many new industries are to be set on foot which will distribute large sums of money among the people, and increased activity in the mines of eastern Oregon will result in an enlarged product of bullion. We have just as rich mines as any section of the country, only needing better means of communication with the outside world to gain a name for themselves. Our grain fields will yield this year as they never have before, and every industry be revived by a general activity such as the northwest has hardly dreamed of. The east is awakening to a perception of our wonderful natural wealth and the immigration to our section during 1881 is likely to be of vast proportions. With such a bright outlook before us none should feel despondent at a temporary set back, but "brace up" and bend their energies to the work of the coming year.

Nordenskjold intends starting on a new Arctic expedition early next year in a new vessel which is now in course of construction for him at the estuary of the Lena.

The Chinese Merchant shipping company are having constructed on the Clyde four 2500 ton steamships. It is said that a steamship belonging to this company will sail from Hongkong for Victoria with 400 railway laborers on board early in April.

DIED

At the residence of S. P. Soule, South Bend, Washington territory, Jan. 26th, 1881, Mrs. Aehsah Adams, aged 72 years, 6 months and 5 days. In this city, February 11, at the residence of Mr. T. Broecker, of pneumonia, Otto, son of Frederic and Katharine Colbert, of Chinook, W. T., aged 2 years and 7 months. Funeral from Mr. T. Broecker's this day at 2 P. M. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

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