

The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SATURDAY FEB. 26, 1881

D. C. IRELAND Editor.

A bill has been introduced into the Illinois legislature to prevent railroad companies pooling their earnings, under a penalty of \$3,000 a day while such arrangement continues, and a strong effort will be made to pass it.

William F. Dalrymple, the famous grain farmer in Dakota, says that the clear profit for 1880 was over \$250,000. He raised more than half a million bushels of wheat on 24,000 acres, and disposed of it in Buffalo at a profit of fifty cents a bushel.

The gamblers of St. Louis are to find security in the spring in a keno boat which is to be started up the river. The boat will have a large main cabin for keno, and smaller rooms forward for faro-roulette and hazard. Each passenger is to pay \$1 fare and three-fourths of the fares are to constitute three "pots" for the game, the bank deducting the usual commission. Once fairly out in the river, state laws against gambling will not avail, and the United States statutes do not recognize such an offense.

The problem of the utilization of the electric light seems to be engaging serious attention in many quarters. In London the commissioners of works have been trying experiments with a view to deciding the practicability of illuminating the house of commons by electricity. At the commencement of the experiment six globes were placed a few feet below the ceiling, but the glare of the light was too strong. A further experiment was then proposed by placing the light above the glass roof. The result of this test has not yet been announced.

Benjamin Harrison, the great grandfather of the new senator from Indiana, was sent in 1774 as a delegate from Virginia to the continental congress. From that date until his death, in 1791, he was prominent in public affairs being a signer of the Declaration of Independence, twice a member of congress and three times governor of Virginia. His son, General William Henry Harrison, served his country both in the army and civil office, from 1791 until 1841, when he died, one month after taking the oath as president. President Harrison's son, John Scott Harrison, was a member of congress from 1853 to 1857, and died a year or two ago at his home in Cincinnati. General Benjamin Harrison, the new senator, was born August 20, 1833, at his grandfather's home at North Bend, Ohio, some fifteen miles below Cincinnati, on the Ohio river.

The emperor of Prussia is in his 84th year, and is remarkably well preserved. It is said that he looks twenty years older than when at Hemburgles-bains eight years ago. His height is six feet six; he had a fine military figure, and did not appear to be over 60 or 61; but he has grown heavier and stouter; his face is full of wrinkles, and old age is also crushing him down in stature, for he does not look as tall as formerly by several inches. When he reached his 70th birthday he promised his faithful physician that if he would carry him through to 80 he would make him a count or baron. Reaching 80 hale and hearty, he again promised the faithful disciple of Esculapius that if he would extend his life ten years more he would make him a prince. Appearances indicate that the physician will receive the promised title.

The alignment of the planets Venus, Jupiter and Saturn in the western sky, at evening, presents a spectacle of beauty rarely witnessed among the heavenly bodies. They form a tapering pointer, with Venus for its blazing head next the sun, pointing toward the southern meridian.

The Central Pacific.

With snow blockades all along its line and law blockades in the courts the Central Pacific railroad company may have harder times in 1881 than its stockholders expected from the promising look of business. The United States government began a suit recently to prevent the payment of dividends, on the ground that the company is indebted to it to the amount of considerably more than \$42,000,000; and that although this obligation, with accrued interest, will only mature in 1897, the payment of a dividend by the company to its stockholders is not a lawful use of its revenue, nor a proper disposition of its property. On the other hand, a western country, which happens to own some stock of the Central Pacific, has obtained an injunction against the lease made to this company of about 500 miles of road belonging to the Southern Pacific railway at the rate of \$3,000 per mile, on the ground that the lease is fraudulent, and made only for the purpose of enabling the Southern Pacific to float its mortgage bonds. This section of road, it is stated, runs through the desert, and cannot earn the amount for which it is leased. On the contrary, it is a constant source of loss to the company from the sand drifts that destroy the track, and the absolute want of water which compels the running of water-trains over considerable distance. Of course, the profitable portion of the Southern Pacific is not included in the lease. The charge made in these two law-suits may lead to a thorough investigation of the affairs of the Pacific railways. We cannot contemplate with satisfaction any event calculated to prevent the natural development of such useful undertakings as those roads are and will be; but we must draw a line between the mode of enterprise which is essentially commercial and honest, and that other mode which is recklessly speculative and characterized by dishonesty and stock gambling.

Depth of the Frost.

From the Hartford (Conn.) Times. Frost penetrates to very different depths in the ground, according to the nature of the soil and the amount of exposure. Workmen engaged in thawing out the ground with coal fires for the purpose of taking up a water pipe on Windsor avenue, just above Avon street, a few days ago, found the ground frozen hard to a depth of two feet or more at the edge of the gutter, while on the inside of the walk, not twenty feet from that point, the frost had penetrated but nine inches. In the first case it was a stiff, clayey soil—in the latter, sandy. On the other side of the street some preliminary digging on the proposed site of a new building revealed a still less depth of frost—only half a foot. That was a sandy loam, somewhat protected. The general depth of the frost in most parts of Connecticut is probably two feet, and it would be greater but for the protecting cover of snow, which averages at least two feet, and is very compact.

Paying its Debts.

A few years ago the west was mortgaged to New York and Boston. The last two or three years have, however, been good years for farmers, and the result is, that debts have been paid and money laid by. For a year and a half the money has been going to New York in large streams and flowing back in much smaller ones. The local banks in the great west are growing strong and independent. One bank in Gentry county, Missouri, however, is instance, whose deposits have grown from \$60,000, in 1879, to \$250,000 at the present time. This case is said to be no marked exception to the general rule. People, also, carry more money in their pockets than they did in 1878, and have more of it hoarded in their houses. Standard silver dollars are believed to be buried in other places than government vaults.

Beef and Mutton in England.

Notwithstanding the constant large importations of these from America and Australia, the English papers inform us that the prices not only keep well up there, but are likely to continue to do so. This is owing mainly to the increasing prosperity in the manufacturing districts. Moreover, those people who formerly got meat of a poor quality only about once a week, on account of its high price, now that abundant importations have placed before them a superior quality at a lower price, can afford to have it nearly every day on their tables, and hence this greatly increased consumption of meat in the United Kingdom. As to mutton more particularly, the liver-rot has broken out among the flocks of Great Britain, causing many deaths in them from the disease, and this again assists to keep up the price of mutton as well as beef and pork. American flock-masters will see that the above infers what the Rural has repeatedly said to them—that various causes have contributed for years past, and would continue probably for years to come, to keep up the prices of sheep, wool and mutton in America. Let them go on now with a good heart and prosper.

What Becomes of the Soapstone?

From the Bethlehem (Pa.) Times. An alarming conundrum is agitating the country. Where does the soapstone go? From our boyhood we have known of the veins of soapstone in the hill just north of Easton. For years all projects to make them profitable failed; but, singular to say, just about the time oleomargarine came to the front, the soapstone quarries were monopolized; mills were leased for grinding the pot-rock, running night and day, the product shipped to New York, and then, where? It is claimed to be used in paper-pulp. It may be, to some extent. It is alleged to be used in hatter's felt. Perhaps so; but where is so large an amount disposed of? Soapstone, or steatite, is a combination of silica and magnesia. It is soft and greasy, and hence it is sometimes called laristone. From its adaptability to making vessels, in some sections, it is called pot-rock. When ground, it is a soft, smooth, greasy, and almost impalpable powder. No one who has seen it in its ground state, will question its almost diamond value for adulteration. Candles, sugar, flour, butter, it is alleged, can be adulterated to the extent of 20 to 25 per cent. without any chance of detection.

English and American Commerce.

The foreign trade of Great Britain during 1880 reached the enormous total value of \$3,164,002,900, made up of \$2,049,950,000 imports and \$1,114,052,900 exports. Compared with previous years the increase for 1880 amounted to \$400,000,000, as the following table shows:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Imports, Exports. Data for 1878, 1879, 1880.

The foreign trade of the United States during the same years was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Imports, Exports. Data for 1878, 1879, 1880.

These figures do not include the specie movement, but represents merchandise only. It will be noticed that while in the trade of the United Kingdom the imports exceed the exports, the reverse is the case in the United States.

NEW TO-DAY.

Last Call.

TAX-PAYERS OF SCHOOL District No. 1 are hereby notified that the tax list will remain in my hands until the 21st of March. All unpaid taxes on that day will be returned to the County Clerk as delinquent, and costs will accrue. By order of the Board of Directors, J. G. HUSTLER, Clerk.

Annual School Meeting Notice.

AN ANNUAL MEETING OF THE legal voters of School District No. 1 will be held at the school house on Main street, in Astoria, Clatsop county, Oregon, on Monday evening, March 7, 1881, at 7 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of electing one Director for three years and one Clerk for one year; also to levy a tax to support a school for the ensuing year in said district, and also a tax to pay interest and incidental expenses of said district, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. By order of the Board of Directors, J. G. HUSTLER, Clerk. Astoria, Feb. 25, 1881.

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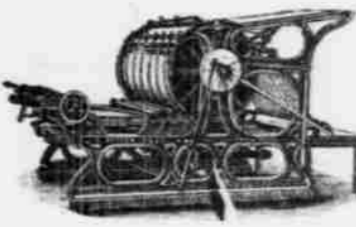
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