The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

SUNDAY ..... FEB. 27, 1881

D. C. IRELAND ..... Editor.

Canal or Railway.

It is unfortunate for the friends of inter-oceanic navigation that divisions should arise as to which route shall be selected. In most cases, without doubt, these divisions arise from an honest desire to select the best. So far as this coast is concerned, any practicable route will be satisfactory. If Capt. Eads' ship railway project were not so entirely experimental, public opinion would undoubtedly settle upon that as the best that is offered. But while there is a very general opinion that a ship railway is feasible, it is still only an experiment. There are canals in working order, but no ship railways. A recent article in the New York Herald intimates that the movement in congress in favor of Capt. Eads' ship railway is not made in good faith. In fact, the intimation is that railroad interests are playing one route against another, with a view to prevent the construction of a canal railway at all. The Herald refers to the ship railway as "a wild impracticable scheme," but omits to give any grounds for its opinion. A project which has secured the indorsement of the best engineers in the country, can scarcely be brushed aside on the say-so of an unprofessional. The proposition is plain with our present knowledge of engineering, compared to almost any of the various great discoveries which have been reduced to practice within the last fifty years. Still, as we have said, it is an experiment, and as such, there will be a difficulty in raising the $75,000,000 which the project calls for. The Nicaragua canal project is comparatively plain sailing. There is no question but money and ordinary engineering skill will make that project a success. At least, it will accomplish the work it is designed to do, whether it proves a profitable financial venture or not, and there is no reasonable doubt of its financial success. The business of this coast demands an interoceanic canal, or a ship railway that serves the purpose of a canal, and is not inclined to cavil at the selection of Nicaragua or Tehuantepec.

There is considerable interest taken in trade circles of New York over the report that Messrs. Wm. Pickardtt & Kuttroff, of that city, have applied for a patent for a process to manufacture sulphate of quinine from coal tar. It is stated that the firm have been interested with a chemist to accomplish this for several years, and with favorable results. Of course, if quinine can be manufactured from coal tar, the fact will revolutionize a large and prosperous trade. During the year 1879, as much as $2,000,000 worth of Peruvian bark, from which quinine is made, was imported, and though the duty was abolished some time ago, yet the principal manufactures, who have had the trade almost entirely in their own hands, will be loth to have their business ruined by such invention as this. Something to take the place of quinine has long been sought after, especially as little has been done to cultivate the cinchona.

—The prophesies of that mythical character "Mother Shipton" aided by the astute and profound observations of scientists and the conjunction of the planets have filled some minds with indistinct dread and awe of that solemn and awful moment when this earth should be "rolled together in a scroll." On last Monday night a famliy of Seattle, having become satisfied that the final crash would take place that night, and wishing to see as much of the fun as possible staid up all night long in a condition of harrowing suspense. After all their expectation and trouble they must have felt very much disgusted to witness the awakening of the following morning attended by no unusual physical disturbances.

The World's Exhibition.

Possibly it would be well to wait and see whether the projected world's fair is to come off at New York city in 1883, before making extensive preparations, for the matter is not reduced to a certainty yet. The committee on the selection of a site consumed so long a time before they made a choice, that public interest in the fair in the meantime partially died out, and it will require to be again stimulated before much progress will be effected. Several states, taking it for granted that the fair will be held, are making preparations to become exhibitors. A writer in the Galveston News argues that Texas will be benefited as much, if not more, than any other state by a full display of her products at the fair, and urges the legislature to make a liberal appropriation for that purpose. This is a conclusion which will apply also to every state and territory in need of immigration. If the fair is held at all, it must be attractive in order to subserve the object intended.

State Pride.

Nevada Tribune, January 22.

The Sacramento Bee thinks Nevada should be returned to a territorial condition, and the Bee is right. A state government such as that of Nevada is a farce. The census gives us 62,000 population, though it may run two or three thousand over that, as the enumeration was very carelessly and incompletely made. The prospects are that, instead of increasing, our population will greatly diminish within the next few years. The Comstock is nearly exhausted, and our stock ranges are nearly all grazed out, and there is nothing in the state to attract an increase of population. We are conducting a state government more elaborate than that of the state of New York; our sources of revenue are shrinking every day; heavy taxes are coming directly on the shoulders of the people, and unless there should be a miraculous change for the better, it will not be long till the only profitable industry in the state will be office-holding, and all the people will be working to support the officers. Many of the Nevada papers ridicule the Bee's proposition to return this state to a territorial condition. They are actuated by what they are pleased to term state pride. "Pride goeth before a fall."

Killed by Spirits.

The quantity of alcoholic liquor that is sufficient to kill, if taken at a single draught, is being determined satisfactorily by actual experiment. The other day an aged colored man in Texas drank three pints of whisky and fell dead. A German paper now tells of a woman who has made a similar experiment in a tavern in the village of Wirrwitz, near Breslau, where she and her husband, being engaged jointly as traveling venders of lampblack—a business that is a recognized specialty in Germany—had put up for the night. The feat was occasioned by a boast made by her in the course of conversation with a number of tavern loungers, that she could drink a pint of brandy at a single draught if any one of her hearers had the ability to pay for it. The offer was taken up and she stowed the brandy away as proposed without winking. Then, however, she sat down and covered her face with her hands, and when, after some time, her husband, becoming alarmed, tried to arouse her, it was discovered that she was dead.

A Whole Town Likely to Sink.

Boston Herald.

A very singular trouble has overtaken the producers of salt in Cheshire county, England. It seems that for some time past, instead of digging out the salt from the mines, the salt men have allowed large quantities of fresh water to run into the pits, and when it became brine have pumped it out and crystalized it. This was in one way a dangerous operation, as the ground underneath the town of Norwich was honeycombed with mines, and the water gradually sapped away the foundations. However, the process was a slow one, and it would have been years before it produced bad results. But, a few weeks ago, a tall and heavy chimney fell to the ground with a sufficient jar to crack open a gap in the brook that supplied the mines with water, and into this opening the water flowed until the mines were wholly filled. The fear now is, and it is well founded, that, as the water will eat away the salt supports, the whole town will sink, demolishing all the buildings that it contains.

NEW TO-DAY.

Sealed Proposals.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED by the undersigned at his bakery, corner of Main and Squemoqhe streets, until Thursday, March 3d, 1881, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the construction of a two story frame building corner Olney and Court streets. Plans and specifications may be seen at my Bakery. The right to reject any or all bids is hereby reserved.

td. LOUIS KIRCHHOFF.

Sealed Proposals.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED by the undersigned at the office of the County Clerk, for building and completing a two story frame building on the corner of West-eighth and Water streets. Plans and specifications are in my hands for inspection. Bids will be opened at 2 o'clock, P. M., Tuesday, March 1st, 1881. The right to reject any and all bids is hereby reserved.

21. JAS. W. WELCH.

Last Call.

TO TAX PAYERS OF SCHOOL District No. 1: You are hereby notified that the Tax list will remain in my hands until the 7th 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.

46-td 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. 23, 1881. 46-td

Notice.

ALL PARTIES ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED not to credit any parties ordering in the name of the steamer Quickstep, unless accompanied by an order from the undersigned. All accounts due steamer Quickstep must be paid to Geo. W. Hume, or to me, as no other parties are authorized to collect said bills.

42-tw JOSEPH HUME

School Taxes.

ALL TAXES DUE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 18, Clatsop county, (the new district) must be paid before February 28th, to avoid expense. A. G. SPEXARTH,

44-td Clerk District No. 18.

Dissolution Notice.

THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXisting between the undersigned is this day dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due the late firm will be paid to A. Ginder, who is alone authorized to collect and receipt for the same.

A. GINDER,
J. J. RILEY.

Astoria, Feb. 14th, 1881.

$80 Reward.

TWENTY DOLLARS WILL BE PAID for the recovery of each of the bodies of four Chinamen drowned in Columbia river near Brookfield on Wednesday last, while going from Pillar rock to Brookfield. One was twenty-one years of age, and had on his person at the time a check of $200 and seven dollars in silver. The second was twenty-three years old and had a pistol and seven dollars in silver. The third was twenty-four years old and had three twenty dollars gold pieces, a twenty-five cent piece, and a silver watch. The fourth was twenty-eight years old and had $155 in gold. The above rewards will be paid by the undersigned.

LUN CHUNG & CO.,
Or CHIN LUNG, Portland, Oregon.
Astoria, Oregon. 27.daw1m*