

OCCIDENTAL NEWS.

Cause of the Explosion on the Collier San Mateo.

SAN DIEGO AND PHOENIX ROAD.

Men in a British Columbia Colliery Agree to the Proposition of the Management.

Tacoma claims a population of 52,329. San Diego's Fruit Exchange has been incorporated.

All the creditors of the Tacoma Exposition are called into court November 28. A franchise for an opposition ferry at Vallejo has been granted by the Trustees.

The amount of sugar output of the Chino factory for the season is 15,100,000 pounds.

The counsel of Chris Evans, the bandit, have applied for a continuance of his case.

Foggy weather has interfered with raising-curing in the South. Hot weather is wanted.

The Butte (Mont.) Council refused to confirm the appointment of a negro on the police force.

The relations between the Arizona Gazette and the Territorial Judiciary are somewhat strained.

The railway employes of the South are finding it difficult to handle the tramps that infest the freight trains.

The Victoria surveyors who looked into the causes for the explosion on the Collier San Mateo declare it doubtless originated in the exposure of the gas generated from the coal to the flame of a lighted lamp.

A gang of forty or fifty bunco-steerers, fire-burners and sure-things men have infested Tacoma several days and committed a number of robberies upon unsuspecting countrymen, whom they induced to visit down-town resorts. Many of the men came over the Northern Pacific from Chicago, where they operated during the World's Fair. They are now on their way to the Midwinter Fair at San Francisco.

Little if anything is being done toward getting the steamer New York off the rocks at Point Bonita. Information is not given out readily, and along the water front there are few who know exactly what steps the Pacific Mail officials propose now to take. As the vessel has settled solidly, there is no likelihood of her ever being pulled off. She will have to be raised and floated. Pumps will be kept on board, and will be ready for work at any time.

The Corvallis Times says: There is a possibility, if not a probability that the \$18,000 of Agricultural College funds on deposit in the Job bank at the time of the suspension will be wholly lost. It will be remembered that shortly after the bank passed into the hands of a receiver in order to secure the college claim an attachment was placed on the property by Treasurer Shipley. It now develops that the attachment was irregularly issued, and if so, the college will be without any claim whatever to the funds on deposit when the bank suspended.

The new cruiser Olympia, on her first trip, established her position as queen of the United States navy. The ship made a maximum speed of 21.25 knots, and averaged slightly under 21 knots on a run of 88 knots, with a heavy sea and a strong head wind. As the Olympia was only expected to make 20 knots, her builders are very happy over the trial, and think that when the official government trial is made she can be forced up to 22 knots. This would give the Union iron works a bonus of \$400,000 for exceeding the speed requirement.

The Clement grammar school at San Francisco, containing 700 young children, was discovered on fire during the school hours the other day. The children marched out in an orderly manner when the alarm was given, and there was no panic. The fire was in the garret, and was extinguished before much damage was done. Miles Baird, a fourteen-year-old pupil of the school, was arrested on the charge of arson. He confessed that he had started the fire in the garret to see how the pupils would get out of school in case of a real fire. Young Baird has always had a mania for setting buildings on fire.

At San Francisco in the case of the United States vs. Frank L. Wilson Judge Morrow of the District Court has granted the motion of the defendant to quash the indictment charging him with sending obscene matter through the mail. Expressions complained of were written by Wilson at Lakeville to a friend in San Francisco. Judge Morrow surprised the United States Attorney and the postal inspectors by his interpretation of the statute governing such cases. He decided that a personal letter, secretly sealed, containing obscenity is not indictable even if it passes through the mails. He interprets the law to refer only to manifold, stylized, printed copies or similar publications. Numerous courts have held that written letters containing obscenity are included in the meaning of the statute, and such cases have been punished by fine and imprisonment. District Attorney Garter announces that he will appeal this case to a higher court.

BUSINESS BREVITIES.

In Japan 343,562 cotton spindles are being twirled.

Last year 1,375 vessels were built in this country.

A revival of Mississippi river commerce is expected.

Virginia produces annually 2,600,000 bushels of peanuts.

Electric railroads, now so common, are not yet ten years old.

Carnegie has a new steel casting that weighs sixty-four tons.

It cost the government \$2,423,522 to feed the regular army last year.

The operating expenses of the railroads last year were \$780,997,996.

Cape Colony, South Africa, has \$90,000,000 invested in State railroads.

The oyster beds of Chesapeake Bay give employment to 30,000 persons.

One beekeeper of Reno, Nev., shipped 50,000 pounds of honey to St. Louis.

Eighty million dozen pocket handkerchiefs were sold in this country last year.

The first consignment of corn ever sent to Europe from Mexico is about to be shipped.

Marquette, Mich., with a population of 12,000 people, pays only \$1 per 1,000 feet for gas.

The total number of employes in the service of railroads in this country last year was 821,415.

Near St. Louis 400 acres have been given up to raising willows for a willow-ware manufactory.

Two cotton mills in Shanghai are exclusively in Chinese hands and founded on Chinese capital.

Two-thirds of all the cotton duck produced in the world is made within twenty miles of Baltimore.

The young cotton-seed-oil industry has scored a yearly record of 1,000,000 barrels, representing 1,800 tons of seed.

There are 110 women lawyers in the United States, and eight have earned the right to practice before the Supreme Court.

They do say that Lower California, where land is very cheap, is as well adapted for lemon culture as the \$1,000 an acre groves of Sicily.

By the sale of their lands to the United States government some of the Indian tribes are worth from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per capita, man, woman and child.

A Chicago building society has increased its capital from \$5,000,000 to \$50,000,000, declares the National Loan Herald. Present assets are \$1,500,000.

It is estimated that the richest of civilized people is the English, with \$1,236 per capita. In France the average is said to be \$1,102; in the United States \$1,029.

A flourishing new Baltimore export industry has been started by ex-Senator Henry G. Davis—that of shipping West Virginia coke to the silver-mining regions of Mexico.

About 600 to 1,000 bolts are used in a single freight car, and about 1,000 are required for a first-class passenger car, in addition to the 800 required in two good six-wheel trucks.

Upon a recent purchase of 10,000 tons of raw sugar, not more than two weeks' supply, the American Sugar Refining Company will net, it is estimated, a profit of \$238,000.

The tenth census shows that 23,010,000 inhabitants of the United States are supported by agriculture, 11,820,000 by manufactures and 15,620,000 by commerce.

One hundred years ago the United States imports aggregated \$31,000,000; to-day, \$866,361,421. One hundred years ago the exports were valued at \$29,109,000; to-day, \$847,508,024.

There are patents for making paper from sawdust and shavings, from thistles and thistle-down, from tobacco stalks and tanbark. It is said that there are over 2,000 patents in this country covering the manufacture of paper.

Over 3,000,000 women are earning independent incomes in this country. There are some 2,500 practicing medicine, 6,000 managing postoffices, 275 preaching the gospel, and in New York city alone 27,000 of them are supporting their husbands.

PURELY PERSONAL.

The Emperor of China is studying French and German, and will take a course in law.

Jeweler L. Hartenstine of Pottstown, Pa., has a 94-year-old watch that has never missed a day.

J. C. Henrichs of Charleston, S. C., is the only ex-Confederate in that State who wears the iron cross of Prussia for valorous service in the Franco-Prussian war.

Dr. Samuel F. Smith, the author of "America," passed his 85th birthday last week at his home in Newton Center, Mass., near Boston. He is active and alert, and feels the burden of his advanced age little.

Mme. Adeline Patti recently told a reporter for an English paper that people have a perfect mania for asking her to adopt their children. She is constantly receiving offers of babies—hundreds, she should say, in the course of the year. Her last one was a pair of twins.

In view of the annual increase of visitors to Egypt an important addition has been made this season to the number of first-class hotels in Cairo. The Gheirah Palace Hotel is intended to surpass in size and splendor its well-known rivals—Shepherd's and the Continental.

British vessels landed a party near Rio de Janeiro in order to obtain a supply of sand for holystoning the decks. The men approached an old Brazilian government powder magazine, which was guarded by a detachment of President Peixoto's soldiers. The latter, seeing a number of seamen digging, believed they belonged to the rebel war ships, and, acting under orders, blew up the powder magazine and killed and wounded several of the British sailors.

EASTERN MELANGE.

American Protective Association Increasing.

THE SMALLPOX IN INDIANA.

The Sender of a Challenge to Fight a Duel Sentenced to the Penitentiary in Alabama.

The New York telephone girls have been vaccinated.

Chicago proposes to settle right down to business now.

A sixth bridge is to be built across the Ohio river at Cincinnati.

The State tax levy for Illinois has been made. It calls for \$2,500,000.

The Salvation Army has opened a ten days' campaign at Galveston.

Dengue fever in a mild form has made its appearance at Sherman, Tex.

The Viking ship has started on its trip from Chicago to New Orleans.

Gold quartz, assaying \$45 a ton, has been struck in Northern Minnesota.

Quebec is being ravished by virulent typhoid fever caused by bad drainage.

The Indiana Supreme Court has knocked out the saloon screen ordinance.

The driveways of Central Park, New York, are to be lighted by incandescent lamps.

The smallpox epidemic continues without abatement in the infected regions in Indiana.

The present fad in New York is said to be the answering of dinner invitations in rhyme.

Arrangements are being made to winter an immense number of Texas cattle in Mississippi.

World's Fair stockholders probably will receive a dividend of 15 per cent on their investments.

The American Protective Association is reported to be growing rapidly in Northern Indiana.

A secret order known as the Pensioners' Protective Association is being organized in Illinois towns.

Claims under the Missouri diseased stock law threaten depletion of the surplus in the State Treasury.

A large number of silver dollars not made by the government have been put in circulation in West Virginia.

A company has been formed at West Plains, Mo., with ample capital to develop the onyx of Douglas county.

Gail Hamilton is still working for the liberation of Mrs. Maybrick, imprisoned in England for poisoning her husband.

An Alabama jury has convicted the sender of a challenge to fight a duel. He will have two years in the penitentiary.

A pauper census of the State of Minnesota shows in June last there were 5,384 paupers, against 4,869 the previous year.

Captain Anderson is desirous of presenting the Viking ship to this government, it to be kept permanently at the capital.

Louisiana sugar is being marketed rapidly, and the result is considerable relief already in the financial situation in that section.

Revenue officers have decided that North Carolina distillers must pay tax on three gallons of whisky for every bushel of corn used.

During the fishing year just closed at Gloucester, Mass., fifty-seven fishermen have been lost, and ten vessels, valued at \$50,000, have been wrecked.

Governor Lewelling of Kansas has appointed Mrs. Eva Blackman a member of the Topeka Police Commission, vice a Populist member whom he removed.

The number of paid admissions to the Columbian Fair during the 179 days that it was open to the public was 21,477,218, being an average of 119,984 1/2 per day.

Senator Sherman's real estate holdings at Washington are rated on this year's tax list at \$400,000. He is about the heaviest individual taxpayer at the capital.

It is understood that the United States Supreme Court will be asked to order the naturalization of a Chinaman, with a view of testing the anti-Chinese legislation.

Brooklyn officials intend establishing a squad of police to protect pedestrians from the danger of the trolley cars. A similar squad does duty on Broadway, New York.

Cornelius Vanderbilt paid \$150,000 for the old Seventh Regiment clubhouse in order to pull it down and make a flower garden on its site for his new Fifth-avenue mansion.

The President has appointed Colonel George B. Ruggles to be Adjutant-General of the army with the rank of Brigadier-General, to succeed General Williams, retired.

About 250,000 photographs were destroyed at the Postoffice Department in Washington on the 28th ultimo. They represented the accumulation in the dead-letter office since 1874.

A suit has been instituted at Madison, Wis., which involves Governor Peck, Attorney-General O'Connor and other State officers in an attempt to get at the State funds in the Treasury.

The Minnesota Legislature has passed an ordinance declaring poolrooms public nuisances and making owners of buildings rented for poolrooms and their frequenters guilty of a misdemeanor.

The Supreme Court of the United States has directed the courts of Utah to proceed in conformity with the act of the last Congress in disposing of the sequestered Mormon Church property.

FROM WASHINGTON CITY.

There are rumors that Voorhees will introduce a free-coinage silver bill at the opening of the regular session. Voorhees declined to talk about the matter, but it is pointed out he has always been a silver man, and that he declared during the debate on the repeal bill that he was no less a friend of silver than always. At any rate it is thoroughly understood the silver question was not shelved by the passage of the repeal bill. On the contrary, the silver men say the fight has only begun. When Congress assembles they propose to keep it well to the front in connection with every great issue between the parties from the tariff to the repeal of the Federal election laws. Every stage of the tariff discussion will be punctuated by pertinent queries by the silver men tending to prove that it was demonization of silver and not the McKinley tariff which caused the financial depression. Indeed, it is intended that the silver men shall act as a body of obstructionists, as did the Parrellites in Parliament, till silver shall receive a hearing.

Although Congress amended the Geary act so as to allow Chinese six months more in which to register, it adjourned without making an appropriation to carry out the provisions of the act. The Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations had cognizance of the necessity of the Treasury Department's need of money to carry out the law, and it is probable that, if the urgency deficiency bill had passed, a clause appropriating enough money at least to begin operations would have been inserted in the bill. As it is, registrations under the act will not begin until the appropriation is made. Meanwhile the Treasury Department will make all its preparations, and so soon as the money is available it will be prepared to assign its officers so that they can begin the work at once. The bureau has assurances that an effort will be made to get the bill through in the early days of the session, so that the work of registration will not be long deferred. It is said that all Chinese now in the country, approximating 100,000, can be registered in sixty days, if they promptly take advantage of the opportunity.

Secretary Gresham has received a dispatch from United States Minister Baker, who was on board the steamer Costa Rica at Amapala when fired on by the Honduras authorities because the captain of the vessel refused to surrender a refugee from Honduras on board as a passenger. The dispatch fully confirms the press reports of the firing on the United States flag. While the ship was in the port of Amapala the authorities demanded the surrender of Policarpo Bonilla, who was recently concerned in the revolutionary movement against the Honduras government. The captain declined. After the ship had received her clearance papers and while she was leaving port six or seven shots were fired to bring her to. Minister Baker was on board at the time. Whether the shots were fired directly at her or in front is not stated. The matter was discussed at a Cabinet meeting. Captain Dow, who was in command of the Costa Rica, is the same captain who harbored Barrundia, who was killed on his ship several years ago by the Guatemalan authorities. It has been established that a political refugee who is a passenger, as Bonilla was, cannot be taken from the ship on which he is. The chance presence of the United States Minister on the vessel in this case is not considered to make any difference in the diplomatic aspects of the case. Nothing could be learned of what reply was sent Minister Baker or what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter. The United States steamship Alliance sailed the other day from San Jose to Acajutla in Salvador. Whether this movement was occasioned by the incident was not stated at the department.

Ratifications of the extradition treaty between the United States and Sweden and Norway have been exchanged. It will go into effect in thirty days.

The annual report of L. Lowrie Bell, the Second Assistant Postmaster-General, shows that the total expenditure for mail transportation was \$43,507,907, and of this amount \$5,768,818 was on account of star routes and \$25,726,005 on account of railway routes. The report shows that there are now in operation: Star routes 18,856, mileage 250,859; railroad routes 2,620, mileage 166,952; messenger routes 7,206, mileage 20,030. The increase in the number of routes during the year was 989 and in the length of routes 6,241 miles. The increase in the annual rate of expenditure was \$2,262,205. During the last fiscal year the railway postoffice cars were subjected to 403 train accidents, most all of which resulted in loss of life or serious injury. Ten clerks were killed, 90 seriously injured and 115 slightly injured. Commenting upon the facts, Mr. Bell says: "The department is permitted to care for the injured, but no authorized relief under the existing statutes can be extended to the people left behind by the gallant fellows who go down to death whilst performing their duties. The day death enters the ear the pay of the clerk ceases, and at the very time help is most needed the heart-broken family becomes too often an object of charity. Various methods have been suggested whereby relief could be extended without material obligation from the government, and I trust the present Congress can be prevailed upon to adopt some one of the proposed plans. If such a measure of relief were put into effect, it would promote the service, and the direct benefit that would be induced by it would be great."

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