

LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL.

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RAIL ROAD ACCIDENTS.

Last Saturday night the conductor on the west-bound freight train reported to the authorities of the town that a man had been run over on the track about three miles east of Lake Charles, Hon. Wm. Meyer, acting Coroner, impelled a coroner's jury early Sunday morning and repaired to the scene, arriving there they found the body terribly mutilated, his head severed from the body, mashed until it was not recognizable, and laying some distance from the track.

Last Monday evening a small girl, about 8 years old, daughter of Mr. Greene, working at the Hutchins & O'Neil saw-mill, went up in the mill to carry some coffee to her father, and coming down out of the mill, was seen standing near the track when the engineer got within a few feet of her. The engine was backing down, and running very slowly, she started to cross the track, when the engine immediately reversed his engine and put down brakes. The wheel of the tender struck her, throwing her back on the rail and the wheel against her breast. As the wheel was not revolving it did not run over her, but pressing her against the rail, shoved her along on the rail several feet before the engine stopped entirely.

THE BOYS COME HOME.—First, one, then another and others return home. Our young townsman, Felix Mestayer, after jaunting for a considerable time in the State of Texas, returned home a few days ago and is now employed by Messrs. Brossard & Decuir as lumber salesman. Our young fellow-type, Wilfrid DeBlanc, also came home from Royville, where he was employed as a clerk in the store of Mr. J. Bonnemisson. Ah, friends, "there is nothing new under the sun," and a hut at home is better than a cottage abroad.—Iberia Star.

THE LEGISLATURE.

From the day the Governor issued his proclamation calling an extra session of the Legislature, for the 5th of this month, we never entertained the slightest expectation that any good results would flow either to the State or to the people, from any measure which might be adopted at this time. The principal, and, perhaps, the only object for which the Legislature has been convened, is to devise some means by which to obtain an increase of the revenues of the State, in order to enable the State Government to meet its obligations, and pay its current expenses. The limit of taxation, under the constitution of 1879, has already been reached; six mills on the dollar, for all purposes, have been levied in the years 1880 and 1881; three mills of which have gone to pay a debt which the people of this State never incurred and which they do not owe, and the other three mills have proved quite insufficient to run the Government during these past two years. All contingent and ordinary expenses of the Government are left unpaid; State warrants and State vouchers for the expenditures of these two years are now in the hands of money-brokers and speculators, who hold them under heavy discounts. There is absolutely no doubt of the fact that a tax of three mills on the dollar, on the basis of actual assessments, will be completely inadequate to cover the amount required to run the State Government, under the present laws, during the next two years for which appropriations are to be made. What is the remedy? The general impression seems to be that the remedy can be found only in increasing the revenues of the State, by a complete revision and remodeling of the revenue and license laws, by which the valuation of property shall be increased, more property subjected to taxation, and the tax on trades and occupations reduced to a more perfect and inquisitive system. For our part we believe that the present system of taxation and license laws is sufficiently inquisitive and oppressive, and any attempt on the part of the Legislature, to grind more taxes from the people than they actually pay, will meet with the reprobation it deserves.

There are but two remedies to see by the New Orleans papers that Mr. Oscar Arroya was unanimously elected Secretary of the Senate. No better selection could have been made; he is always ready, always true, always efficient.

Both of the above remedies may be applied at the same time: a reduction of appropriations, in every instance where it can be done without detriment to the public service, and a reduction of the rate of taxation now devoted to the payment of the interest on the State debt, until an amount of revenue will be secured, beyond doubt, to run the State Government on a cash basis.

But we have but little hope that either of these propositions will meet with favor before the present Legislature, and we have very little faith that anything short of the adoption of either or both of these measures will bring the State out of its present embarrassments.

In his message to Congress President Arthur had not a word to say about the South. At last, it seems, we are to be let alone.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The Governor's message, we are sorry to see, is nothing but a repetition of the arguments lately made in high-tax and highly-salaried circles in favor of an increase of taxation. The difference between the appropriations and the revenues for the years 1880 and 1881 is already estimated at the enormous sum of \$664,885.71, and the Governor goes on to recommend an increase of appropriations for certain specified purposes. The message says: "The appropriations for special purposes, and for sustaining the State Government, were as small as could be made. After a careful review I do not find that they can be reduced. For some objects the appropriations should be increased." The Governor therefore recommends, in order to cover the present deficiency, and the greater one to be operated by the increase of the revenues of the State by a revision of the assessment, collection and license laws. He thinks that the present valuation of the property in the State may be increased nearly one hundred per cent on the assessment rolls; he recommends that the license tax on trades and occupations be doubled, and that more prompt and efficient means should be provided for the early collection of taxes.

We do not believe that a majority of the members of the Legislature can be persuaded to do any such things, and if they do, that the people will submit to them. The simple remedy to the situation must be apparent to any one who has only the interest of the State and of the people at heart. The limit of taxation is fixed at six mills. Under the present law three mills are reserved for the State debt. It is admitted that, although the State could not pay current expenses, there is now a surplus in the Treasury to the credit of the interest fund, which is likely to continue for several years. Let the pro rata of the tax for the service of the debt be reduced, and that for the support of the Government be increased, and State and people will be able to pass safely through the ordeal, without extortionate assessments, grinding collection laws and unjust license exactions.

We were more than gratified to see by the New Orleans papers that Mr. Oscar Arroya was unanimously elected Secretary of the Senate. No better selection could have been made; he is always ready, always true, always efficient.

FOR THE COMMERCIAL.

The Republican Caucus.

If the action of the Republican caucus is to be regarded as final, there will be a Stalwart Speaker of the House of Congress now assembled. Keifer, of Ohio, being the choice of the caucus, will be elected Speaker, unless the Greenbackers refuse to vote with the Republicans. The majority of the Greenback members, I believe, are of Republican origin, and no doubt will vote with their old comrades when they see they cannot elect one of their own clan. There is not much hope of their voting with the Democrats, for very few of them were Democrats before their new departure.

A Stalwart President, a Stalwart Speaker of the House, and in a short time, no doubt, a Stalwart Cabinet. That wing of the Republican party will have things all their own way. What will the end be? BRUCE.

FOR THE COMMERCIAL.

The Year 1881.

The year 1881 will be long held in sad remembrance by many citizens of our city. Death has reaped a rich harvest during the year. This sad truth is told by emblems of mourning seen daily on our streets. The reaper has taken all classes. The aged, those of middle age, the young and the prattling babe, have fallen by his relentless hand. Many seats in the family circle are vacant. Some have passed away after months of suffering, others after a few days only. Some have been hurried away through accident. This has been an uncommon fatal year, and it is to be hoped its like may never be known again.

The accidents occurring on the Railroad have been numerous, and yet it appears that many of them were unavoidable. Several persons have lost their lives through drunkenness. It is a sad fate. BRUCE.

The New Orleans Road.

An Emphatic Endorsement of the Proposed Line.

[Baton Rouge Advocate.]

We gave on Saturday the reasons, which impel us to the conviction, that the New Orleans, Red River and Texas Railroad recently inaugurated is the road for Baton Rouge. There are other reasons that make us believe that it is emphatically the road which should interest the business men of New Orleans. The railroad boom up to this time has been of no direct advantage to the moneyed men of that city. Northern capitalists have reaped all the advantages which arise from the connections between the great systems of Texas and the West with New Orleans. These advantages in Louisiana are conspicuous and peculiar. This Western country enjoys no great water ways, and is, therefore, entirely dependent on railroads. Land is cheap and abundant, and a liberal system of land subsidy has been established. The consequence is that great lines are being built in every direction, and all that the railroad lines in Louisiana have to do, is to fill up the connecting links. A vast network of railroads, penetrating into almost every county, is ready to hand, and as soon as the connecting lines are built, these Texas and Western roads become directly tributary, so far as the traffic seeking an outlet at the Gulf is concerned. Gould and Huntington have tapped all these broad-gauge systems; and now the business men of New Orleans have the opportunity to do the same for the narrow-gauge, which, on account of the cheapness of construction, is being diffused much more extensively.

By adopting this plan, they do for the railroad traffic of the West, what the Mississippi river does for the East; they establish a competitive system, which will effectually break down all discriminations against the business of New Orleans. The great railroad lines, with branches going to St. Louis and the Eastern cities, will always be under a temptation to make such discrimination to equalize their traffic under the contingencies of demand for transportation.

If the merchants and factors of New Orleans do not now seize the opportunity to curb any such disposition, by an effectual and permanent implement in their own hands, they are not sagacious enough to protect their own trade against the encroachments of their enterprising rivals. St. Louis has the enterprise to run railroads for her own advantage, and she has thus been able to divert shipments into tortuous and unprofitable channels. New Orleans has only to work in co-operation with natural laws, and her position as a great emporium and commanding arbiter in the trade relations of the Southwest is assured.

To do this she needs only a little exertion. A very small contribution from all the interests affected place the road in such condition that its securities would be prime in the markets of the world. This is a matter of greater importance than the Mexican trade or the South American trade, and it should receive attention at once.

Suppress the Practice.

[St. Charles Herald.]

After empanelling the Grand Jury last Monday, Judge Hahn, in a short address to the gentlemen forming that body, calling their attention to the alarming extent that the carrying of concealed weapons was indulged in this parish, and suggested that they recommend the suppression of the nefarious practice in their report to the Court. This indeed was a very commendable move on the part of our learned Judge, and it is to be hoped that the worthy gentlemen composing this all important body will take heed of the suggestion, and devise strenuous measures which will prove a death blow to the great and growing evil, which in itself is the instigator of bloodshed, and the great potent factor by which thousands are led to the gallows, and through its instrumentality our jails are filled from one year's end to another. The Grand Jury should take the initial step in this matter and recommend the suppression of the practice, by an impartial enforcement of strict and unrelenting law.

A DEFECT IN THE CONSTITUTION.—We regret to inform our fair correspondent Mrs. McRafferty of Stevenson street, that after diligent search we find there is no clause in the Constitution of the United States making it a penal offense of Mrs. O'Hoolihan, whose back yard is to windward of Mrs. McE's to sift ashes while the McRafferty linen is hung out to dry. It is just these inexcusable omissions to protect the most sacred rights of our prominent citizens that are slowly but surely bringing about the downfall of this alleged republic.—[San Francisco Post.]

The New Speaker.

Some Particulars About Gen. Keifer, Now Head of the House.

[N. O. Democrat.]

Joseph Warren Keifer, who has been elected Speaker, is an Ohio man. He represents the Eighth District in Congress, and his home is in Springfield. Gen. Keifer was born in Clark county, Ohio, January 30, 1836. His boyhood and youth were mostly spent on a farm. He received a common school education, topped off at Antioch College. In 1858 he was admitted to the bar, and practiced law in Springfield until the beginning of the war. He entered the Union army and was commissioned major of the Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, April 27, 1862; was promoted to lieutenant-colonel, same regiment, February 12, 1862. September 20 he was appointed colonel of the Tenth Ohio Infantry. He served in the campaigns in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, and was wounded severely May 5, 1864, at the battle of the wilderness. On November 30, 1864, he was brevetted brigadier-general for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Opequan, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, Va., and on December 29 President Lincoln assigned him to duty as brigadier-general. He was appointed major-general by brevet during the campaign ending in the surrender of Gen. Lee, and was mustered out of service June 27, 1865. After four years military experience he resumed the practice of law in his old home. In 1868-9 he was in the Ohio Senate. He was commander of the department of Ohio G. A. R. during 1868-9 and 1870, and in 1872 was made vice commander-in-chief of that organization. In 1878 he resigned from the board of trustees of the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' home a position he had occupied from the date of its organization, May 8, 1872. He was a delegate at large to the national Republican convention held at Cincinnati. He made his first appearance on the stage of national affairs as a member of the XLVth Congress, and was re-elected to the XLVth and XLVth Congresses.

The Farce at Washington.

[From Beck's Sun.]

The most amusing entertainment that is now on the boards in the United States is the farce that is being played at Washington, "Guilty or Not Guilty, or is the Whelp Lusane." The farce is at Cox Theatre, and an actor named Gutear appears in the title role, supported by an amateur named Secyille. District Attorney Corhill is the stage manager and Judge Cox is the prompter. The audience is frequently convulsed with laughter, and applause that amounts to an encore is frequent. In a city where but a few weeks ago every citizen was in mourning, weeping crocodile tears, it seems strange that so many can be found to laugh at the antics of a beast, but people who are sad at the spectacle should remember that there are more loafers in Washington than in any other city on the continent, and as most of them are dead-broke, and can't get into a two-shilling matinee, it is natural for them to turn to prayer meetings or assassination trials for amusement. While they are in the court they watch the proceedings for places to laugh, forget their sorrows, and do not worry about where the next meal is coming from. They are mostly office-seekers, many of them cranks like the prisoner, and we hope the people of the country will not judge Washington society by the newspaper reports of the hilarious actions of the frequenters of that court.

An Engine Wrecked and the Engineer Fatally Wounded—The Sabine and East Texas Railroad.

[Special to the Times-Democrat.] Beaumont, Texas, Dec. 4.—The East-bound freight train on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad last night flew the track at Liberty, and was totally wrecked. Engineer Brogoff was badly scalded, and his recovery is doubtful. There were no other casualties. The northern extension of the Sabine and Texas Railroad has reached Hickory Creek, and will shortly let a contract to grade and build on a branch from Woodville to the Neches river, distance fifty miles, which, when completed, will insure to our mills an ample supply of logs.

A second-class Virginian: "Cap'n, I hain't got no money and I want to go to Washington," said a seedy looking Virginian to the captain of a ferryboat at Alexandria the other day. "You probably belong to one of the first families of Virginia," said the captain after looking the would-be passenger over. "No, sah," was the response, "I belong to one of the second families of Virginia." "Jump right aboard," said the captain. "I never carried any of that kind before."

Carried on a Locomotive's Plow.

On Friday night the wife of John Crowley, living in Straight street, Paterson, N. J., near the tracks of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad, was sweeping the sidewalk in front of her home. A few minutes later she had disappeared, and a protracted search in the neighborhood and through the city failed to reveal the slightest clue so her whereabouts. All traces of her had been as utterly lost as if she had been swallowed up in the earth. Yesterday morning Mr. Crowley learned that a woman, who said that she was Mrs. Crowley, from Paterson, had been picked up at the Monroe Station of the same railroad, badly hurt. He went thither by the next train, and found his wife, whose story is probably unimpeachable. After sweeping the walk before her house, she had started to go across the track to see a friend, when suddenly she was struck by a locomotive, and the next she knew she was being carried forward through the air at a great speed, and was nearly frozen. The engineer of the locomotive said he went out to stop the engine just before reaching Monroe Station, and found her lying, half dead with cold and fright, on the "plow." She was removed at the station, and cared for until the arrival of her husband. She was brought back to Paterson yesterday afternoon, and was in a serious condition. She is about 50 years of age.

A November Avalanche in Colorado.

[Leadville Chronicle.]

A few nights ago a freight wagon drawn by two horses and heavily loaded was descending the steep western slope of Independence Pass, about two miles this side of Leadville, when the driver, a man named Cunningham, heard the ominous cracking sound that precedes the avalanche. He sprang to the ground and in an instant the snow was upon him. An immense mass of deep snow about three hundred feet in width came down in the terrific and indescribable way of all avalanches, and, luckily for Cunningham, he was just on its outer edge. The wagon was caught and whirled over, the horses were thrown in the air and Cunningham was covered with snow, although the main body did not strike him. Immediately behind him was Carson's stage, with several passengers, and the driver at once went to the rescue of Cunningham. The men shoveled snow all night long, and not until late next day was the road sufficiently opened for the passage of teams.

Notice of Administration.

State of Louisiana, Parish of Calcasieu, 25th Judicial District Court.

SUCCESSOR OF LEWIS CORRIAN, Deceased.

WHEREAS George W. Corriean, of the parish of Calcasieu, has applied by his petition to be appointed Administrator of the succession of Lewis Corriean, deceased, late of said parish. Now, therefore, any person intending to make opposition to said appointment will file the same in writing in my office, in the town of Lake Charles, within ten days from the date of the first publication of this notice. THAD. MAYO, Clerk. Dec. 3, 1881.

FOR SALE.

FIVE Town Lots, in Lake Charles, in three squares from the Lake, advantageously situated. Also, about six acres of land, south of Railroad line, about 700 yards from the Railroad depot, east of Calcasieu river. To be sold in lots to suit purchasers. Very liberal terms will be given to any party purchasing with intention to build. Apply to GABRIEL A. FOURNET, Lake Charles, La. sept. 3, 1881.

On Account of Departure.

I WILL offer for sale the following property, to-wit: My residence on the Lake front, \$2500. My store, buildings and lot, \$1750. Five digible town lots, \$275. The schooner O. Jennings Gill, \$4000. H. C. GILL. Lake Charles, Sept. 17, 1881.

DESIRABLE FARM FOR SALE.

THE old Mark Lee place, about two miles from Lake Charles, containing 120 acres, partly cleared and fenced, and partly timbered land, with house and out-houses, and ground cistern, ready for use. Terms liberal and easy. Apply to M. J. ROSTBET, or G. A. FOURNET, Lake Charles, La. sept. 3, '81.

30 TOWN LOTS FOR SALE.

on easy terms and cheap. Apply to W. H. HASKELL, nov. 5, 81. Lake Charles.

ST. LOUIS TYPE FOUNDRY.

N. E. Corner of Third and Vine Streets. MANUFACTURERS OF Plain and Ornamental Type, Printing Presses, Cases, Chases, Galleys, and Printing Machinery Generally. Electrotyping and Stereotyping done to order. July 9, 1881.