THE DAILY RECORD-UNION.

PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE.

[This Department is prepared for the SACRAMENTO RECORD-UNION by its Agricultural Editor. All matter relating to the agricultural interest will be found under this head.]

THE COLD SPELL AND THE CROPS.

We hear many fears expressed that the long-continued cold and wet weather will result in considerable injury to the crops. So far as wheat is concerned we think the damage will be generally very light, though much will depend on circumstances surrounding the sowings and the soil. Wheat that had a pretty good start before the cold wave came on, we apprehend, will not be injured to mention, whatever the nature of the soil. Wheat that had just been sown, and was in the process of germinating, or that had just come up above the surface, will be liable to greater injury, but, except in very damp ground, we have but little fears that even this will be much damaged. These who have observed the grasses and grains closely have learned that they will go through freezing weather with much less injury than people generally suppose. The fact that the cold weather has been accompanied with a great deal of moisture, both in the atmosphere and the soil, has been a very favorable circumstance. Had the air been dry and the surface of the soil been less damp during the coldest spell, we should have felt much more uneasiness about the result. Another favorable circumstance has been the entire absence of sunshine. After a cold frost, if the sun comes out warm in the morning and touches vegetation while still frozen, a severe injury is sure to follow, but before the sun makes its appearance, let cold water be thrown over the frozen plants and the injury will be light. If nature supplies this moisture in the shape of fogs, and while the plants are wet with the fog are at the same time protected from the rays of the sun, as has been the case during our entire cold weather of late, we do not look for any injurious results—at least to any extent. Barley and oats have not yet been sown, and therefore have not been harmed. The freezing, we think, will be an actual benefit to the soil in bettering its mechanical condition. This will be the case especially in heavy adobe soils. When the cold and damp weather ceases, and warm sunshiny weather shall succeed, the surface of such soil will be found to have parted with much of that sticky, putty-like appearance, and when drying winds succeed will not bake and crust so much as it would have done. This improved condition of the tilth of the surface will go through the season and have its effects upon every stage of the crop, helping to retain the moisture and prevent the pinching process that results, sometimes from the breaking of the surface by drying north winds. We notice that the cold has been injurious to some of the semi-tropical nursery trees in some parts of the State; and, what seems singular in this connection, is, that this injury is complained of as much or more in the southern counties than in the interior of the State. Those who are interested in these nurseries should learn that it is not safe to keep such trees growing too late in the season. It will not do to continue irrigation later than the warmer days of the year to keep up tender growth. Well-matured wood will stand many more degrees of cold than that which contains unworked up sap or water. It is probable that in this fact lays the reason that the small orange and lemon trees in the southern portion of the State seem to be injured more than they are further north. The southern people depend more upon irrigation than we do, and consequently they continue the growth of their trees later in the season, and when cold weather comes it finds them less able to resist it and its effects. We do not think the injury to well-matured orange or lemon trees in this section will be noticed after a month of good weather. To the more hardy fruits we think no damage has been done.

DAMP AND WET.

While the winter so far may well be called damp, it has lacked considerable of being wet. The rains have been so timed that the water falling has had sufficient time to run off before the next rain, consequently the water has at no time been at a high stage in the creeks and rivers. It has, therefore, been very favorable to the low river bottoms. Notwithstanding this favorable circumstance farmers on these lands have, up to this time, done but very little in the way of cultivation, and less in the way of sowing. They have learned by the experience of the past few seasons that it is more prudent to wait till later in the season before risking much time, labor and seed on these lands. Those who plant after the spring floods on these low lands generally do the best. It may be that the damp season may turn into a wet one at any time, and in that case those who have delayed work will lose nothing by delay. Last season we had but little rain and no high water till the last of February, and when the rivers did fill up and the waters flow over their banks they covered up thousands of acres of growing crops and did great damage and caused great loss. We think the damage this season will be much less even should we have a wet winter at last. We do not think, however, that the prospects are good for very high water this spring. We would not advise farmers whose lands are subject to overflow to take much stock in this opinion.

STAYING STOCK.

Breeders of good horses have a wide field in which to exercise judgment and discretion. The farmer or the man who is breeding horses for the farm has no less a problem to solve than has the breeder of the roadster or the racer. The farmer wants the animal of strength combined with quick and ready movement and great staying qualities, added to which should be a kind disposition and natural inclination to learn tractability. The breeders of roadsters must study to get good size, fine and strong motion, fair speed, good spirit, tempered with intelligent docility, and added to all he must have great staying qualities, or he has failed to secure a good animal for the road. Good roadsters, of whatever stock or breed, will generally be found to have in their veins some of the blood of the running horse, and from this blood generally they not only get or inherit that quality usually and very appropriately termed "game," but also their great powers of endurance. The real trotter, the horse that combines both game and speed on the course or on the road, in a great majority of cases combines the blood of the thorough bred with that of the well bred roadster. The staying qualities of a horse or a man do not come so much from physical as from mental organization and development. It is not the animal or the man that has the largest bones or the heaviest development of muscle than can move the largest load or that can undergo the greatest physical endurance. Nor is it the man who has the largest brain that can perform the greatest amount of intellectual work. There is a quality to bone and muscle, as well as to brain, and in either case it is this quality that confers the greater value. Symmetrical proportion is another point that breeders of good stock strive to secure, and this symmetrical proportion is not a mere fanciful attribute but a substantial and most necessary qualification or accompaniment of great ability, either physically or mentally. Very few uncouth or ill-formed animals have been noted for great speed or great endurance, and very few are favorites, even in the dray or on the farm. The world likes symmetry, and the world knows that symmetry is the almost universal accompaniment of success, of true ability and real reliability. To a certain extent grace, and even beauty, are inseparable from symmetry. Nor are these facts lacking in philosophical support. Science has more to do with the combination of beauty and grace of form with great ability than has fancy. The most symmetrically formed tree, other things being equal, will hold up and perfect the greatest load of fruit, but not so much because of its good looks as because in its formation it combines proper proportion and scientific principles. The same principle applies to the animal form that applies to the form of a tree. Men know this by instinct as well as by reason. Hence in breeding for great endurance, for staying qualities of stock, in all ages and in all nations, they seek physical symmetry, with symmetry or evenness of disposition.

AGRICULTURAL SELECTIONS.

MERITS OF THE SUFFOLK HOG.—The Suffolk hog, as it was generally known fifteen or twenty years ago, was a very diminutive animal, scarcely weighing in most cases two hundred pounds at maturity, being nearly devoid of hair, and very apt to choke up while being fattened; and it was represented by those who were unfavorable to the breed, that it was almost useless for breeding purposes. The sows were said to have been poor milkers, giving birth to very small litters. A great many people throughout the country seem to have an idea that while other breeds of hogs have been changed by breeding, the Suffolk is still the same animal it was years ago. The fact is, that the Suffolk has been improved as much as any other breed. The Suffolk of the present day, while retaining all its easy fattening qualities, is a good deal larger than formerly, weighing at maturity from three hundred to four hundred and fifty pounds, and in some instances as high as five or six hundred pounds. They now, generally, have a good covering of soft hair, although once in a while an individual specimen of the breed will be thin-haired. They do not choke up by getting excessively fat any more than any other breed. When not allowed to get too fat, the sows breed well, and are proverbially kind and gentle mothers, allowing their pigs to be handled without resenting it.

ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MEN.—The agricultural implement men of the Northwest met in council at Rock Island on the 16th of December and organized permanently. The officers elected are as follows: S. H. Velie, President; W. B. Boyd, Vice President; Ira M. Gifford, Secretary; J. H. Bradley, Treasurer. The outlook for the trade was considered, and an interchange of views had in regard to the situation. The unanimous sentiment, at least so far as expressed, was that a considerable advance in prices over last season was necessary and imperative, in view of the cost of material and labor. This meeting was somewhat of a preliminary character. Further consultation and comparison of views was desirable, and the Convention adjourned to meet in Chicago on the 15th of January.

BRAINWORK IN FARMING.—In farming, thinking is as necessary as working. The highest results are obtained by those who farm intelligently. Brain, not less than brawn, is required, and there is no calling which requires more careful thought, combined with practical skill, than the various branches of rural pursuits. As a rule, farmers should devote less hours to daily labor and more to rest, thoughtful recreation and good reading, especially upon the business in which they are engaged.

STATE RIGHTS.

EDS. RECORD-UNION: Your paper has heretofore been one of the ablest and most strenuous advocates of the fundamental principle of the so-called Republican party of the day—that our people constitute a nation; that the Government at Washington is the supreme ruler in the land; and that the doctrine of State rights is a myth. Judge then of my astonishment at reading in your leading editorial on Saturday last, commenting on the dissenting opinion of Judge Field, in the case of the Central Pacific Railroad vs. Gallatin, that "the position taken by him upon the question of Congressional invasion of State sovereignty is one which would beyond doubt have ranged the framers of the United States Constitution upon his side, and it includes a revelation of dangers and perplexities which sober men will do well to heed, and which it behooves every earnest politician to study seriously, because of the certainty of the approaching importance of this and similar questions, in both State and national affairs. The argument of Judge Field in regard to the peculiar relations existing between the Central Pacific, the State, and Congress, ought indeed to be mastered thoroughly by all who desire to keep themselves informed concerning the nature of the movements by which the original character of the Union between the States is being changed, and a centralized government is being gradually erected upon the wrecks of State sovereignty, already little more than an empty name."

I am glad that something has occurred to bring the distinctive difference between the present Republican and Democratic parties so prominently before the people, and that you recognize so promptly where the danger to our free institutions lies.

I was born twenty-four years after the first inauguration of Washington, and grew up amongst those who had participated in the formation of our Federal Government; and I know well, both by oral teaching and from the publications during the early days of the Government, its true character, and the history and principles of the two parties to which the adoption of the Federal Constitution gave rise.

In the convention which framed that Constitution every possible effort was made to constitute us a nation with a strong centralized government. The words "nation" and "national" occurred frequently throughout the draft of that instrument, but they were in every instance stricken out, the idea of constituting us a nation not meeting the approbation of the members of the Convention. After the adoption of the Constitution, and the inauguration of the Government under it, those who had failed in their efforts to have our Government made a strong and consolidated one by the provisions of the Constitution, with a few honorable exceptions, endeavored to accomplish their object by construction, but the Republicans, to defeat the object of the Federalists, secured the adoption of the tenth article of the amendments to the Constitution. That article contains the fundamental principle of the old Republican—the now Democratic party of the country. It reads: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." The great mass of our people seem to think that the difference between the parties is merely one of measures; but measures cannot be strictly party questions unless they involve the fundamental difference between the parties, which is, a struggle for on the one hand, and opposition to on the other, the centralization of power in a strong consolidated government at Washington.

From my earliest days, the old Republican and its successor, the Democratic party, have adhered to the Constitution and opposed all attempts to invade the rights of the States, and until the commencement of our civil war, being generally in power, had been able to defeat the designs of the Federalists; but since the accession of the falsely called Republican party in 1860, and its continuance in power, the policy of the Federalists has prevailed, and to such an extent that you now see, and all good and true Democrats have always believed, that the State rights doctrine is one "which the best friends of republican government ought to subscribe to, for it is founded upon principles, the neglect or abandonment of which must destroy the firmest supports of popular liberty, and prepare the way for the advent of centralized despotism. Respectfully,

JAMES L. ENGLISH.

PRECIOUS METALS.—Wells, Fargo & Co. have issued their statement of precious metals produced in the States and Territories west of the Missouri river, including British Columbia and receipts in San Francisco by express from the west coast of Mexico, during 1879, which shows aggregate products as follows: Gold, $32,539,920; silver, $38,623,812; lead, $4,185,769. Total gross result, $75,349,501, being less by $5,805,121 than for 1878. California shows a decrease in gold of $140,342, and in silver of $589,146. Nevada shows a total falling off of $13,184,235. Utah shows a falling off of $595,734. Colorado shows an increase of over $8,000,000, chiefly from Leadville district. Dakota shows an increase of $993,183. These are the totals of the different States and Territories: California, $18,190,973; Nevada, $21,997,714; Oregon, $1,037,961; Washington, $85,336; Idaho, $2,091,300; Montana, $3,629,020; Utah, $5,468,879; Colorado, $14,413,515; New Mexico, $522,800; Arizona, $1,942,403; Dakota, $3,208,987; Mexico (west coast), $1,683,871; British Columbia, $976,742.

WHEN Mrs. Shoddeigh read in the paper that the Government had expended $181,000,000 on its Indian service, she urged Mr. Shoddeigh to write immediately and ascertain where it was purchased. She said her China service cost only $3,500, and she never could be happy until she was the owner of an Indian service.—[Nor. Herald.

John T. Pritchard is to be hanged at Carson on the 16th.

PLACER COUNTY.

WHY IMMIGRANTS WILL NOT SETTLE IN CALIFORNIA.

Are the Railroads a Curse to the Country?—Amount Paid to Labor—Inhance Value of Real Estate.

NUMBER TEN.

Heretofore, in these articles, the purpose has been to exhibit and illustrate the desirability of the foothills as a place of residence for those who are able to content themselves with small farms. Thus far this has been a labor of love, and it has been an earnest work because the speculators have not felt an interest in the foothills. The whole desire has been to direct striving people to a country where they can obtain good farms and build up comfortable homes. The RECORD-UNION recognizes the high duty of the press to give the people full and complete information upon every subject that interests them. Already these investigations begin to bear fruit, as one may easily discern by conversing with the emigrants who are now coming westward by car loads. These emigrants are passing through California to Oregon, and by the very best lands in the world, that can be obtained at reasonable rates, and they recognize the fact that they are passing through a country far more desirable than the one to which they are going. If the reader wishes to understand the reason let him board the trains and

INTERVIEW THE IMMIGRANTS.

He will there learn that the great stream of immigrants now coming have what they believe to be an all-sufficient reason for avoiding California. They say they cannot settle in the Sacramento valley because the land is monopolized by a few men, and they will not settle in the foothills "because the lands are owned and the people are dominated by a tyrannical railroad company." In proof of both of these assertions they refer to the newspapers, political speeches and the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention. Immigration to the foothills cannot be obtained until the people at large are convinced that the railroad is not a curse. Is the railroad a damage to Placer county? The investigation of this subject has been made solely for the purpose of subserving the welfare of the foothill country; and, in making the investigation, the Central Pacific Railroad Company has given free access to its books. The reader will not be troubled with an account of the work done in this matter, nor with a statement of the various steps in the investigation. The proposition and resolve at the outset was to accept any result that the facts might establish. It was expected, in view of the never-ceasing denunciations of the railroad company, that there would be discovered positive and aggravating proofs of their oppressions of the foothill people. But after prolonged investigation, and searching inquiry among the foothill people, no proof whatever has been found to support the opinion that the railroad company has been unjust or even inconsiderate. On the contrary, the entire investigation uncovers facts that demonstrate

THE INESTIMABLE ADVANTAGE

Of the railroad to the foothill people. The facts will now be stated as found to exist. The Central Pacific Railroad Company has added directly to the assessable wealth of the county the following sums: Rolling stock, $349,727 92; railroad bed and track, seventy-six miles, $1,144,000; real estate, $80,837; personal property and improvements, $57,766 21, making a total of $1,732,395 63. The addition of this large amount of capital alone would make the difference between prosperity and adversity to any foothill county in the State. If the people had not possessed a single dollar, or if the county had been an absolute wilderness, the investment of this sum would have given an impulse to business and immigration that would soon have ended in the development of the country.

Again, the actual expenditures of money in the county have been enormous, and much greater in amount than the sums received from the people. To arrive at the amount paid employes in Placer county during the year 1878, July is taken as a basis, as that month's expenses constitute a low average for the year, and it is found that the railroad company

PAID TO EMPLOYES

In Placer county, during 1878, $259,959, giving employment to 373 persons. In addition to that, the company consumed in the same month 3,088 cords of engine wood, all cut and used in that county, costing $19,300, or $231,600 for one year. A white man will, on an average, cut about one cord a day, so the reader will see that the amount furnished would give employment to about 103 men during the year. Call these men employes, and add to former figures, and it will be found that the amount paid to employes in Placer county in 1878 was $491,559, and the number of men employed, 476. These estimates do not include any portion of the general office expenses, superintendence in the various departments, etc., but simply the amount paid to employes living in Placer county. If now there is multiplied these figures by twelve, the number of years the road has been operated, the result is a total of $5,898,708 paid to employes resident in Placer county. This estimate, however, excludes the large force necessary to move the wood to the depots of the company, and we exclude this large amount because we are putting the

FIGURES EXTREMELY LOW.

Common practice requires the addition to the above total of the amounts paid for labor in repairing snow galleries and bridges in Placer county. The average of this class of expenditures is $3,000 per month, or $36,000 per year, making a total for the 12 years of $432,000; making the grand total of money paid to labor in Placer county $6,330,708. But the estimate is far below the actual amount paid for labor in that county, as when the road was in course of construction millions were so disbursed. The railroad company has therefore furnished the people of Placer with an enormous amount of money, and in doing so it has stimulated every industry in the county. And that money has passed from hand to hand, and been used by every inhabitant. It has paid private debts, bought personal comforts, and built up industries wholly unconnected with the railroad company. Corresponding amounts will continue to be disbursed among the same people for all time to come, and the railroad company will be, in the future, as in the past, constantly supplying the people of Placer with a circulating medium sufficient for the transaction of ordinary business. The company is, therefore, to the people of Placer the equivalent of a bank, that furnishes a circulating medium without asking the people to take a dollar's risk as to final result. This consideration alone is sufficient, or ought to be, to convince the people of Placer that the railroad is to them a beneficent institution. The railroad

INCREASES THE POPULATION

Of Placer county. An impression exists among a few persons in Placer that at one time the county contained a larger population than at the present time. To satisfy upon this point there was carefully read the old files of the Placer *Herald*, and the oldest inhabitants were searchingly questioned and the best minds in the county consulted, and the result is the conviction that no just foundation for the opinion that Placer ever contained a population exceeding eleven thousand. At one time the several forks of the American river swarmed with miners, and those who remember this fact feel that there must have been a very large population at that time. But the sum total was far less than has been supposed, and many of those miners were really residents of El Dorado, which at that time contained a population twice as large as that of Placer. The census of the county was taken in 1852, and according to that there were then 10,785 people in the county, including 720 Indians and 3,019 Chinese. In 1853 the Placer *Herald* estimated the white inhabitants of the county at 6,712 (the whites of El Dorado numbered 21,271), and that estimate was the

BASIS OF APPORTIONMENT

By the Legislature. Those who base their calculations as to population on the large number of votes cast from 1852 to 1863 must remember that many voted scores of times, and that the population was composed almost exclusively of voters. Many of the people included in the various enumerations have since moved away, attracted by glowing accounts from distant mines, and there are not now in Placer county more than 7,000 who were there between 1849 and 1867. If the calculation upon which this estimate is based is correct, and scarcely any one in Placer county will question its correctness, the railroad has at least doubled the population of the county. The towns are certainly all sustained by the railroad, and the entire agricultural population remains in the county on account of railroad facilities. And, on the whole, it is safe to say that 10,000 of the 15,000 people now in Placer county have been either induced to go, or have been retained there by the railroad. That the increase hereafter will depend almost wholly upon the railroad, no one presumes to doubt. Another plain fact stares everyone in the face, and convinces all but the malignant, that the railroad has been of great service to the people of Placer. Freights and fares have been lowered by railroad transportation. On their freight alone the people here saved in the last twelve years vast sums of money. Redwood lumber, for house building; groceries, dry goods, and everything that has been imported by them, has been delivered at a comparatively low cost, and thousands of dollars have been saved by owners, by their decreased expense in carrying gold-dust to San Francisco.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

Have been saved in the one item of personal traveling expenses, to say nothing about the comfort secured, and the sickness avoided by railroad traveling. Work was begun in the way of accumulating data on these points, but it was soon found that the task was too great for human endurance. From the information accumulated already no one will consider it extravagant when it is estimated that the saving to the people in the above items, for the twelve years that the road has been operated, is $3,000,000. The road has carried into Placer in that time not only the supplies needed by the resident population, but vast amounts of material needed for men temporarily in their employ, and altogether the amount of freight carried has been very great. Thousands of tons of machinery, pipes, etc., have been carried, and we are confident that the saving to great mining corporations has alone amounted to half the estimate here made. Many men of good judgment and broad experience would double this estimate, and say that the savings to the people and mining corporations of Placer have not been less than six millions in twelve years. And when one considers the number of buildings of redwood that have been put up, the stores that have been supplied, the agricultural implements that have been required, the engines and miles of iron pipe that have been used, he is forced to believe that the larger estimate is the most correct. The railroad has

CREATED MARKETS

Where none existed. Without the railroad the towns of California, the mines and cities of Nevada, the Territories, and the Eastern States, would not be open as markets to the farmers and merchants of Placer county. The benefits that have accrued from this source are easily estimated. In a single year (1878) the railroad carried of various Placer county products, according to the table already given, 137,563,910 pounds. But that exhibit only included the traffic on one line. The Oregon line, at the very lowest estimate, carried twenty millions of pounds of Placer county products. Some of this freight brought for its owners fifty cents a pound; several millions brought ten cents per pound, and much of it less than a half cent. If the statistician averages these products at one-half cent per pound, he will have $787,819 55 worth; if he fixes the average at one cent, he will have $1,575,639 10. In this estimate there is excluded the products of the extreme west end of the county, that might have been carried to Sacramento in wagons. Therefore in the above-named sums is given a fair illustration of the value of the new markets that have been opened and created by the railroads for Placer county. To obtain a full statement of the benefits conferred in this way it would not be fair to multiply this sum by twelve, the number of years that the road has been operated, for the reason that these products have greatly increased since 1867. But as one single item of these products has reached the sum of $1,200,000 in the last twelve years, we may safely multiply the larger estimate by four, which will give $6,302,556 40 as the sum of

BENEFITS CONFERRED

By the creation of new and distant markets during the past twelve years. As a matter of course the creation of new markets has greatly increased the value of land. The extreme west end of the county alone had markets without a railroad, but even there facilities for transportation have more than doubled the value of land. East and north of Roseville there was a limited market for certain articles among the miners, but these markets did not give any actual market value to that land. And nine-tenths of the land in the entire county that is now productive and valuable twelve years ago possessed no market value whatever, and in many instances the value has since increased from nothing to $175 per acre. To be within bounds, let it be said that railroad facilities have added, on the whole, one-half to the value of real estate and personal property in Placer county within the last twelve years. First, take the present valuation of real estate as estimated by the Assessors for 1879. According to their report the real estate and personal property of Placer county is worth $5,713,026. The half of this amount is $2,811,344, which, if the Assessors' valuations were correct, would represent the increased value caused by railroad facilities. But it is a fact well known to every intelligent man in Placer county that the actual

VALUE OF THE REAL ESTATE

And personal property is more than three times greater than the estimates furnished by the Assessors. The real estate and personal property of Placer county is, therefore, actually worth $16,868,061, which provides us with a new and more correct basis for calculation. The half of this is $8,434,030, which gives a moderate representation of the enhanced values of real estate and personal property caused by the railroads.

Let there now be given the total of all these additions to the values and capital of Placer county, excluding $1,732,395 63 of railroad property, because that amount is included in the estimate immediately preceding this sentence. The total of money paid for labor in the county, the amount saved in freights and prices, sums realized from new markets opened by the road, and the enhanced value of real estate and personal property, amounts to the sum of $24,066,294 40. This large amount represents the lowest estimate of the values that have accrued to Placer county from the Central Pacific Railroads.

But there is another aspect of the subject that deserves consideration. The Central Pacific Railroad Company

PAYS ONE-THIRD OF THE TAXES.

It supports one-third of the schools, educates one-third of the children, supports one-third of the county officials, and provides hospital accommodations for one-third of the poor of the county. These are direct advantages. Indirectly, the railroads, by creating a widespread prosperity, add immensely to the general comfort, the refinement, culture and morality of the people. In the same way they contribute very largely to good government, the protection of life and property, the good name of the county, and the self-respect of a people, who are able to keep the county free from debt because of the advantages derived from the railroad.

But the reader may imagine that Placer county gave a *quid pro quo* in the shape of subsidies given to the railroad company. In reply to this query, it is to be stated that Placer county never gave any subsidy whatever to the Central Pacific Railroad Company. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars was subscribed by the county, but that was an investment, and the county received that amount of stock in return for the $250,000 worth of county bonds. Several years ago the county sold its stock for one hundred cents on the dollar and liquidated its bonds with the proceeds. But the reader may ask, Why do the people complain of the Central Pacific Railroad? In answer to this question, it is to be said that in several weeks of continuous investigation there were found but two men who made specific

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE RAILROAD COMPANY.

Both of these complaints related wholly to mistakes that occurred in land matters before the organization of the Land Department. Some were bitter against a few of the local railroad agents, but they did not hold the company responsible for the acts complained of. There are, however, a number of indolent teamsters who hang about bar rooms and swear that they would be better off if there were no railroads. The greater part of the bickerings in Placer county arise out of the belief that the county made a mistake in selling its railroad stock, and in many instances this animosity against county officials passes over to and against the railroad company. But no man of common sense ever thinks of holding the railroad company responsible for this supposed mistake. Nevertheless there is considerable jealousy among many who have been less successful than the railroad men, and to this envy is attributable all the anti-railroad feeling now existing in Placer county. The vast majority, including all the industrious people of the county, recognize the fact that they are under almost infinite obligations to the C. P. R. R. Company. And this class of people declare that the railroad company has been not only fair and just but generous in everything pertaining to the welfare of the people of the county. Among these people the leading railroad officials are exceedingly popular, and any one of them could command a two-thirds vote of confidence. Should any reader hereafter settle in Placer county, he will find the railroad men accommodating, and ever ready to sacrifice their own comfort for the personal advantage of the settler. They will exhaust themselves in furnishing information that may be needed, and a word may be assured that no advantage whatever will be taken, no matter what the opportunity may be. The railroad men know very well that their own future prosperity must depend upon population, and on the prosperity of that population. And self-interest alone dictates and must continue to dictate a liberal and generous policy. If the reader wishes to pursue this subject still further he can easily see what Placer county would be without the railroad by visiting El Dorado county. There he will find a county much larger than Placer, better situated, with finer lands, nobler forests, more extensive mining regions, and which started with a much larger population. But he will also find a bankrupt county with an official head that dares not show itself in open day for fear of creditors. That county, with all its superb advantages, is practically worse off to-day than it was twenty years ago. And without the railroad Placer would be in the same desperate straits.

THE QUIET HOUR.

THE "TANGLER'S" PARADISE OF CHARADES, ENIGMAS, ETC.

[Contributions to this department should be addressed "Quiet Hour," RECORD-UNION. Write upon but one side of the sheet. Accompany all contributions with the answers, the true name, and postoffice address. The object of the department being to cultivate wit, encourage patient inquiry, and afford compensating mental recreation, contributors will receive the advice and assistance of the department, and are privileged to engage in courteous criticism of the productions published.]

Answers to December 20th.

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(D) Dear Sadie: I met your friends at the city this morning; was in a hurry; will see you to-morrow. MAY.

(E) Conundrum.

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(G) See-saw.

Correct Solutions and Answers to Correspondents.

Trinity—A to G and 500 to 515 inclusive, excepting 506 to 510....F. M. S.—A to F inclusive, 501, 504, 507, 508, 509, 511, 512, 514, 515....Julie A.—496, "A"....Rose and Hattie Heath—The letters were forwarded per request. Pleased to accommodate.... Hattie Heath—A, C, D, F, 500 to 515 inclusive, except 505, 506, 509 and 510....Marius, Hattie Heath, Augusta Blake, Julia A., Sid, B. C. P.—Manuscripts received and filed.

New Tangles.

516. Books described by Hattie Heath. [These are titles of popular works by well-known authors, and the puzzle is to give the correct title from the description given below. As an example we give the answer to No. 1, to wit, "Hedged In," by Phelps.]

1. Pent up. 2. A dirty pastime. 3. Special. 4. Coming morning. 5. Magic. 6. Recovering. 7. Home of a recluse. 8. Cunning animal 9. Well known to "Quiet Hour." 10. Much alike.

517. Square word, by Julie A.:

A plant; the present life; an animal; a scar (four letters each).

518. Charade. Dedicated to Hattie Heath by Augusta Blake, Hollister:

My first is known to royalty, to peasant and to peer;
Sought by poor as well as rich, the mild and the austere;
My second is of ancient date—it has borne the hero bold;
The warrior and the coward, the young as well as old;
My whole may be a happiness, a blessing, or a curse;
Brings joy, sorrow, pain and fear, distress, or something worse.

519. Changed headings, by Marius:

I am a small bay, but change my head and you will find that I am to prepare; again, I am to contend; again, often view; again, strength; again, opposite of light; again, upright; again, visibility; again, compact; again, a person.

520. Rebus, by Trinity, for Hattie Heath:

I am a word of three syllables; each syllable is a noun and verb: My first is a home; second is a vassal; first and second is an author; third is to dispatch; my whole is the production of my first and second.

521. Double acrostic, by Amethyst:

Primals and finals down give a god of mythology, and a maiden beloved by him: A port in South America; a sacred place; an Italian name; a girl's name; moist; dear to all Americans; a river in France.

522. Puzzles, by Amy:

(1) 100 (2) 100 (3) 50
7 8 50 y.

523. Square word, by Crooks:

(1) Not much; (2) by itself; (3) to abound; (4) a girl's name (four letters).

524. Diamond, by Maybell:

In rebus; a kind of fish; to disjoin; slain; a letter.

525. Diamonds, by My Wife and I:

1. Part of code; taste; thin; kind of type; haughty; result; part of dam.
2. A consonant; to remain; pertaining to tides; free; sea-board; a pain of childhood; a useful machine; shelter; part of art.

526. A colony scheme, by F. M. S.:

50 a one es a 500 50 one 5;
no 500 ut one es Pre 1000 one u 1000 s
1000 at 100 hes 100 he one 50 500 ren.

527. Buried countries:

1. We go to church in a carriage. 2. As I am going, you may go too. 3. The Turk eyed his victim curiously. 4. The thief ran, ceasing to hold what he had stolen. 5. I arrived at the Capital yesterday.

528. Word puzzles, by Hattie Heath:

1 (an author's name, two syllables). Sound; sweet.
2 (a flower). Restrained; to oppose; near.
3 (one word, four syllables). A vowel, heat; a note in music; a termination of words; an abbreviation and a frequent suffix.
4. P
t.

SOME NEW VEGETABLES.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, living in central New York, sends that journal his experience with some new vegetables during the past year. Among them are two varieties of sweet corn, of which he says the Mexican, a black variety, is the best and sweetest variety he ever knew. He goes on to say: "The color is the only objection, but when in cooking condition very few of the grains will be at all discolored. It is very productive, most of the stalks having two ears, set low down, and ripping early. For an extra late variety, the Egyptian corn promises to be valuable. I planted about the 20th of May, on not very rich land. The corn made an enormous growth, but the ears were slow in forming, and much of it never ripened sufficient for seed. I planted only three grains in a hill, and half the seed did not come up, so the plants were thin. As it grows very large, I think, if the seed is good, two grains per hill is sufficient. The corn is extremely prolific, some of the stalks having three good ears, and the fourth only rudimentary. I judge that it will be valuable for localities that have a longer season than here. I shall continue to grow it, and I think I have saved seed of which a larger proportion will grow than that which I used last spring. In quality the Egyptian corn is superior. The ears are large and fat, the grains deep, and the flavor fully as sweet or sweeter than the common evergreen. Its extreme lateness may prove an advantage for canning purposes, as it is always best to delay putting up corn until the hot weather has mostly passed. But it must be planted very early, or there will be no use in planting at all. The thick, coarse stocks had grown full hight, and begun to tassel, before the ears showed themselves, and they formed very slowly after that. On rich soil it might prove a little earlier. I procured last spring a package of cocoanut squash seed. The past summer was a bad one for squash bugs, but by dint of hard fighting I saved the crop both of this and Hubbards. The cocoanut squash is certainly beautiful in its growth, and, despite its small size, the vines are very productive. In quality it is very much like the Hubbard—some liking it better and others not so well. It has a very thin rind, and for small families is more convenient than the Hubbard, which often grows to such unwieldy size as to be too large for a meal for an ordinary family. I can recommend the cocoanut squash, not to supersede the Hubbard, but to supplement it and furnish an additional variety, and one which is sure to attract a good deal of attention."

FLORENCE, the actor, tells this story of the elder Booth: "He was playing 'Hamlet' in Virginia one night, and had no skull. A little darkey volunteered to get one. When Booth was leaving the theater he felt some one tugging at his coat-tail. He looked around and saw the little brunette. 'What will you have, sonny?' 'Please, sah, I want daddy's skull, sah.' 'Daddy's skull?' 'Yes, sah. Dat used ter be de ole man's head-piece afore de mewel kicked him, an' mammy'll lick me ter rags ef I lose it.'"

The Grand Jury of Whitman county, W. T., adjourned without finding a single indictment.

RETURN TO PARIS.

THE FRENCH SEAT OF GOVERNMENT RESTORED TO THE GAY CAPITAL.

Profoundly Interesting Scene in the French Chamber of Deputies—Gambetta—Louis Blanc—The Cassagnacs.

PARIS, November 29, 1879.

The latest excitement in social as well as political circles has been the reopening of the Chambers at Paris. Although general dissatisfaction is expressed as regards the Cabinet, the fact that with all the faults they have committed they have displayed sufficient energy to restore to Paris her former prerogatives has induced many to regard their short-comings with a lenient eye. When it was first suggested to remove the Capital from Versailles, the reactionists sent forth a cry of such sharp alarm and of horror that the accomplishment promised to be more of a herculean task than it has proved to be. In fact, they refused to acknowledge the possibility of the Chambers existing at Paris while under a republic; a monarchy only was capable of entering into that cage of wild beasts, of that tiger, that monster Paris. All the officials, without exception, dwelled at Paris, while the seat of Government was at Versailles. The fact of the thing was that the Government was neither at Versailles nor at Paris; it was on the road. It did not meet, it traveled. It passed its time in coming and going; an hour and a half to go and an hour and a half to come made three precious hours of pure loss, and the members had hardly reached Versailles when it was time to return. If, as they say, time is money, Versailles has cost France a vast amount. But all this is now going to change, for whereas Versailles made

A VAGABOND OF THE GOVERNMENT,

Paris is to make it a worker. Thursday, the day, of the opening, passed away amidst a general calm, although the halls of the Palais de Luxembourg and the Palais de Bourbon were thronged with all the great political and literary men of France. A great crowd collected around the entrance of both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, but a great and respectful crowd, while the interior only was the scene of great animation and exciting interest, in which the proposed change of Cabinet had no small share. Gambetta made a short but very appropriate and eloquent speech, which was much applauded. As may be suppposed, on such an occasion the demand of visitors for entrance was very great, but as only a limited number of cards are distributed to each member during the year and in his turn, a small number only of the deputies' friends could be accommodated. Friday there was no session, but to-day, Saturday, being the fortunate possessor of a ticket, we wended our way to the tribune of that wonderful monument which has been the witness of so many remarkable incidents in the history of France. On entering one perceives a strong odor of paint and varnish, which suggests the recent occupation by the refractory workmen who struck at a critical period, and came near retarding the opening of the legislative halls. The number of liveried ushers stationed along the passages inspires

A FEELING OF SOLEMNITY

Before reaching the Chambers. We had an excellent opportunity of studying the room before the opening of the session, but aside from the slightly faded frescoes on the ceiling, we failed to discover amidst the bright new furniture, and fresh-looking statues traces of those violent and moving scenes recorded in France's history. The Palais Bourbon or the Assembly dates from the first years of this century, since Napoleon I., 1804, until Napoleon III., 1870. Within its walls has the Government held its sessions under different monarchies, the victorious of to-day overthrowing those of yesterday, to be in their turn deposed by the triumphant of the morrow. There sat the Government under the Restoration, under the Constitution of 1830, the Republic of 1848, the Empire of 1852. This hall has been the witness of many celebrated scenes, and we could in imagination see the Duchess of Orleans enter by the door, leading her children by the hand, and endeavor by maternal eloquence to save the monarchy in placing her son, the Count of Paris, on the throne. We next saw pass before us the invasion of 1848, the 15th of May, by Blanqui and Barbes, when Louis Blanc enacted the role of mediator between the invaders, his friends and the majority, and who later was condemned to prison by this same majority, and was able to escape and reach England, where he

REMAINED IN EXILE

Until the establishment of the present republic. It was here that General Le Flo, the *questeur* of the chambers, was arrested on the 2d of December and conducted in company with Thiers and others to the Prison Masas. After came another invasion of the people following the defeat of Sedan and which led to the establishment of the republic. Oh, ye stones and statues, may you be called upon to witness no other revolutions, but be allowed to gaze only on peace and prosperity, the reward of all valiant and just peoples. The present hall presents a pleasing contrast to that of Versailles, for the latter suggested a great barn hastily converted into a temporary residence and inspiring a feeling of an approaching typhoon, when each one must fold his tent and hasten away. The hall of the Palais Bourbon is large, in pleasing proportion, with a lofty ceiling. The light falls softly through a half circular skylight just above Gambetta's head. Life-sized statues in bas relief, representing Justice and Liberty, adorn the Speaker's tribune as well as the President's desk. The seats and coverings of desks and portals are of red velvet, and with the red are mingled here and there green and gold quietly distributed. Only the brilliant and richly adorned ceiling, filled with such allegorical pictures as can do violence to no one's prejudices, reminds one of the

DAYS OF ROYAL PRODIGALITY.

Before 2 o'clock a number of the members strolled in, and opening their desks drew forth packages of manuscript, on which they bent their attention like studious school-boys before appearing in class. As the hands of the clock pointed to 2 Gambetta entered, preceded by two ushers in velvet coats, with long, gold chains around their necks, and who, after mounting the steps, bowed low as the President passed to his seat. The rest of the members came strolling in, all talking and jabbering like magpies, that the President was obliged many times to draw down his eyebrows and agitate the bell before he could produce order. Gambetta appeared to us less heavy and fleshy than when we last saw him,