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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

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NEW ORLEANS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1877.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

DOMESTIC NEWS.

FRAUDS IN SUGAR IMPORTATION.

The Finest Qualities of Sugar Artificially Colored to Avoid Duties.
(Special to the Democrat.)
WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—Special Agent Chamberlain, in a report of his investigation into the alleged fraudulent importation of colored sugars at the ports of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, represents that this class of sugars is imported in larger quantities at New York than elsewhere. The merchants and refiners at all the ports named are of the opinion that Demerara sugars, generally known as park crystals, are artificially colored for importation, with the intention of reducing the duties upon them and swindling the government.

TELEGRAPH COMBINATION.

The Two Opposition Telegraph Lines Unite and Will Go Back to the Old Rates.
(Special to the Democrat.)
NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—The Times says that the terms of agreement between the Western Union and Atlantic and Pacific companies are as follows:

Keene & Sage are to turn over 71,000 shares Atlantic and Pacific stock at 25 to Wm. H. Vanderbilt as trustee for the Western Union Company. Vanderbilt, in return, is to give them an equivalent in stock of the Western Union Company at 72.

The two companies are to continue to carry on business, and all outstanding contracts are to be fulfilled, but the earnings of both are to be pooled, and the Atlantic and Pacific is to receive one-eighth of the gross amount, the Western Union retaining seven-eighths. The country is to be redistricted, superfluous telegraph offices are to be consolidated, and rates are to be raised to the old standard.

Nepotism in Federal Affairs.

(Special to the Democrat.)
WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—The answers to Commissioner Barney's inquiries as to number of relatives holding revenue offices are very peculiar, and show an astonishing development of nepotism in some sections of the country, especially so in the Southern States, New York and Pennsylvania. In the Covington, Ky., district, there were thirty-one persons related to each other holding revenue offices, out of some forty appointments.

The President's Tour.

(Special to the Democrat.)
CRAWFORD HOUSE, N. H., Aug. 21.—President Hayes and party left Fabyan's at 7:45, and by special train passed through the Notch, reaching North Conway at 9:10 a. m. Carriages were obtained there and the Kearsarge House visited, where a reception was held by the Executive and the Cabinet. At Glen Station a few moments were passed in hand-shaking. The party arrived at Old Witley House at 11:30 for dinner, before which a short reception was held in the parlor, and at 1 o'clock the cars were taken for Plymouth.

The Losses by the Pittsburg Riot.

(Special to the Democrat.)
PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 21.—Committees of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and of the Maritime Exchange had a consultation to-day relative to an adjustment of the losses incurred at Pittsburg during the strike. An agreement was arrived at by which suits will be brought against Alleghany county, and an understanding that, after the necessary data shall be prepared, the claims of merchants will be presented prior to those of the railroad company, which will assist the business community in suits.

Ordered to be Vaccinated.

(Special to the Democrat.)
CHICAGO, Aug. 21.—The prevalence of small-pox in certain of the most squalid portions of the city, and the determination to prevent its spread have occasioned the issuance of an order by Health Commissioner Dewolf requiring that all adults who have not been vaccinated within a period of ten years and all children between the ages of ten and fifteen shall be vaccinated forthwith.

A Grand Indian Council at Spokane Falls.

(Special to the Democrat.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 21.—Advices from Spokane Falls, under date of the 15th, state that Gen. Wheaton's command arrived at that point on the 10th inst., after eight days' march from Lewiston, distant 105 miles. The command numbers 530 men, all told. Word has been sent to all the different tribes in that section to collect at Spokane Falls for the settlement of affairs. Nearly a hundred chiefs and head men are expected to be present at the coming council, about the result of which much anxiety is felt among the settlers, as they fear in case it is not satisfactory to the Indians, and the troops should leave, that they would have to abandon their homes.

A River Catastrophe.

(Special to the Democrat.)
MEMPHIS, Aug. 21.—This afternoon, while the steamer Phil Allen was lying at the wharf, the steamer was blown off with a loud report. Miss Lapaugh was sitting on the hurricane roof and became so badly frightened that she jumped from the roof to the lower deck, sustaining serious injuries. Miss Lapaugh is correspondent of the New York Times and author of a "New Trail to Pike's Peak."

The Saratoga Races.

(Special to the Democrat.)
SARATOGA, Aug. 21.—The first race of today, for a purse of \$400, one and one-eighth miles, was won by Virginia, in 1:57.
The second race, Harding Stakes, for three year olds, one and one-half miles, was won by Zoo-Zoo, in 2:43.
The third race, sweepstakes, for two year olds, three-quarter mile, was won by Spartan, in 1:49.

The Pennsylvania Republican Association Dissolves.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—Attorney General Devens, in an official communication, thinks the Pennsylvania Republican Association a political organization, and that the President's order applies to members who hold positions under the government; therefore the association met last night, voted that all the

money on hand, after the debts were paid, should be sent to the State soldier orphan schools of Pennsylvania, and adjourned sine die.

A Canadian Conflagration.

MONTREAL, Aug. 21.—At 2 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the upper story of James McDougall & Co.'s grain elevator, adjoining the flour mills on the canal bank, Wellington bridge, and in a short time the elevator and the whole of the two upper floors of the storehouse, where a large quantity of wheat was stored, were in flames.
The fire burned from the top of the elevator down to the lower floor. Notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen the fire spread rapidly, and the neighborhood being covered with mills and factories the flames caught the extensive flour mills of Mrs. Gould & Sons, known as the City Mills, which, with a heavy stock of grain, were reduced to ashes.
Wm. Mooney & Co.'s horseshoe nail factory and part of their rolling mills were destroyed. The fire was under control about 5 o'clock. The loss is very heavy.

WAR NOTES.

Position of the Russians.

(Special to the Democrat.)
LONDON, Aug. 21.—There are few troops at Drovoa and Gabrova at present. A brigade of the 14th division is at Tirnova. Reinforcements are moving south to strengthen the detachments holding the passes. Cavalry is advancing against Osman Bazar. Gourko's defeat seems partly to have arisen from the same cause as other Russian reverses, namely, dividing his forces.

GEN. GOURKO'S DEFEAT.

Heavy Loss to the Russians and the Annihilation of the Bulgarian Legion.

LONDON, Aug. 21.—The Daily News' correspondent telegraphs from Sistova, August 19, a detailed account of the events which caused Gen. Gourko's retreat. The account shows that even independently of the retreat being necessitated by the disaster at Plevena, Gen. Gourko's forces were completely overwhelmed by superior forces of Turks, and although the Russians gained a brilliant victory at Yoni Shagra on July 30, Gen. Gourko was compelled to retreat on the following day, although in sight of Eski Shagra, where he was obliged to leave the Bulgarian Legion, who was operating as a separate body, to their fate. Of the Bulgarian Legion, which was originally 1000 strong, only 400 or 500 men of the Bulgarian loss, Gen. Gourko lost 9000 men in the two days' fighting of the 30th and 31st of July. During Gourko's retreat through the narrow Balkan and Balkan passes, which would be reduced more than fifty per cent were criminal courts to sit oftener. This is a very serious question that every voter should investigate, and see that men be sent to the Legislature in future who favor such reduction of expenses. It can be done, and as a new era of economy in public burdens is being inaugurated, this item should not be forgotten or postponed.

Against a Convention.

(Attakapas Register.)
The errors of a defective constitution may be remedied by amendment, submitted through the Legislature to the voters at the next general election, with greater economy. Here is an eminently practical suggestion at this time. The people want a rest from a condition of ceaseless political agitation. They were led to expect it under the present administration. The calling of a convention would besmily putting all the office seekers to work, and not a few bulldozers besides, to the detriment of planting interests.

No Convention.

(Alexandria Democrat.)
We notice that one or two of our exchanges are agitating the question of holding a constitutional convention, and we wish to put ourselves in opposition to the project as being expensive, almost useless, and at the same time calculated to do harm and put a weapon in the hands of our enemies. We do not say that the constitution of 1858 is perfect by any means, but the necessary changes can be made in a much more simple way than by calling a constitutional convention. The same Legislature which would have to call the convention can propose instead of such call whatever amendments may be needed, and they can be submitted to a vote of the people at the election to be held next fall, and that will be an end of the matter. To call a convention it would be necessary to have an election first for delegates, then the convention would sit at a great expense, and after all the constitution adopted by them would have to be submitted to the popular vote. The greatest difference between the present and the former constitution is in the mode of electing the parish court system and registration in elections. The former has already been submitted to the people, without result. So far as we are informed, the present Legislature has already eliminated the objectionable features of the registration law and the other changes which are desirable will probably be slight and unimportant.

Swimming the English Channel.

(Special to the Democrat.)
LONDON, Aug. 21.—At 3:40 p. m. yesterday Frederick Cavill started from Cape Griznoz to swim across the English Channel, and succeeded in the attempt, arriving within fifty yards of the English coast, near Dover, at 3:45 this morning. The sea being rough and breakers high, it was considered unsafe for him to land, and he was taken into a boat.

The Murderers of the Salonica Consuls Released.

LONDON, Aug. 21.—A German squadron has gone to Salonica in consequence of the release of the officials who were implicated in the murder of the consuls.
A special issue of the Standard from Dresden announces that the powers at the request of Germany are reported to have agreed upon a common protest to the Porte concerning the release of the murderers.

The Weather Yesterday.

The following is the "temperature" at the various points named, as reported by the Signal Service telegrams furnished by Sergeant Brown, of the Signal Bureau, and indicating the state of the temperature at the points named, at 3 p. m. yesterday:
Cairo 85 degrees, Cincinnati 87, Galveston 87, Keokuk 83, LaCrosse 84, Leavenworth 72, Louisville 89, Memphis 84, Nashville 88, Omaha 89, Pittsburg 91, Sharpsport 79, St. Louis 77, St. Paul 79, Vicksburg 79, Yankton (D. T.) 79, Augusta (Ga.) 88, Corsicana (Tex.) 84, Mobile 82, Montgomery 80, Savannah 83, New Orleans 82, and Key West 91.

The Kingdom of Spain Intends to Establish a French Theatre at Madrid.

Many of the debts contracted by the Shah of Persia in England are said to be yet unpaid.

THE COUNTRY PRESS.

The Parish of Cameron.

(Opelousas Courier.)
Cameron being a little world off by itself, news comes slowly, and may not always be reliable; but from what has already transpired there we are prepared to believe any report of violence that comes from it. The best thing for the Legislature to do at its next session is to abolish that parish and return its component parts to the parishes from which they were taken.

Road and Levee Law.

(West Baton Rouge Sugar Bowl.)
The road and levee law passed by the police jury of Ascension parish, on the 24th of July last, raised such a row among the people of that parish, that the jury was compelled to call an extra meeting of that body and have it re-considered. When the people make up their minds not to obey a law, the best thing to do is to repeal it. At home here the road and levee law does not seem to meet with any great amount of favor, although all are willing to comply with any reasonable law in relation to roads and levees. The next Legislature must make some great changes in the present State laws in regard to them or they will remain as dead letters upon the statute books. Never crowd a willing people, should be the motto of our present legislators.

District Court Expense.

(Erboulan Sentinel.)
There is a grave error in the criminal laws that ought to be corrected at an early day. The time between sessions of criminal courts is too long. Two terms only are held in a year, so that many criminals lie in jail four to six months, awaiting trial. Every man accused of crime is entitled to an appeal, but a speedy trial. If they are not tried he should be promptly set at liberty. The taxpayers should demand that criminal courts meet oftener, at least six times in a year, in order that every man demanding trial should have his case examined, and not kept six months, at a heavy expense to the parish, in jail before he can have a hearing. Hundreds of dollars are annually paid by parishes for the expenses of board of prisoners, which would be reduced more than fifty per cent were criminal courts to sit oftener. This is a very serious question that every voter should investigate, and see that men be sent to the Legislature in future who favor such reduction of expenses. It can be done, and as a new era of economy in public burdens is being inaugurated, this item should not be forgotten or postponed.

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OF THE NEW ORLEANS CUSTOM-HOUSE COMMISSION.

Economy and Civil Service Reform.
The report of the recent Custom-House Commission has been put in type at Washington and advance proofs mailed to the press of the country.
From the proof received last night it was shown, first, that the letter of instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury directed seven lines of inquiry which covered nearly everything in the way of investigation. Then follows several letters from the Collector

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CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW ORLEANS, August 4, 1877.

Sir—In their preliminary report of the 30th June, the commission appointed by the Hon. John E. King, Collector of Customs for this district, in compliance with instructions from the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, gave their views in regard to the force actually necessary to perform the labor incident to the business of this port, and the organization of the force, and while it appeared to them that certain of the employees were not up to the standard of character and efficiency which should be maintained in making appointments to public offices, they would leave such cases to be acted upon by the Collector. They are of opinion that further reductions than those recommended are impracticable at this time. In making investigation under part 2 to 7, inclusive, of their instructions, the commission has endeavored to ascertain, first, the actual record in regard to the past history of the Custom-House, and as to absenteeism on the part of the Collector and other chief officers, but he has neglected to comply with this request with regard to absenteeism, stating merely that he did not think it was the design or the desire of the honorable Secretary of the Treasury to enter into inquiry as to these matters, and further that the records of his office did not employ such cases, but he has not reported the same. Therefore, refrained from any such investigation, except so far as pertains to the manner of conducting routine business inaugurated under the late administration and in force at the present time. Consequently, they are of opinion that, after their final adjournment, many things which would otherwise have been brought to their notice will remain for investigation by the special agent of the Treasury Department assigned to this district.

COMPLAINTS OF MERCHANTS.

Notwithstanding the fact that the commission, by means of advertisements in the daily newspapers of New Orleans, and special communications addressed by the Collector to the Chamber of Commerce and Cotton Exchange, copies of which are hereto appended, advised all of the readiness to hear any complaint or suggestion bearing upon the administration of customs affairs at this port, but few of the leading brokers and merchants presented themselves, and these such cases as were referred to, were not given a sufficient cause for it, the commission are satisfied that many would have come before them had it not been for a fear that their facilities for doing business with the Custom-House would be such as to render it unprofitable to them, if they did so. This state of things has left the commission to their own resources for most of the information they have obtained of irregularities in the transaction of the business of this port.

DRAYAGE AND WAREHOUSE SYSTEM.

Prominent among the complaints made by merchants was a general expression of dissatisfaction with the system of drayage existing prior to the 1st of June, 1877. They say it has been too expensive, and that parties have been allowed to drayage goods at a rate not to exceed 12 cents per package, and that the officials have not been sufficiently prompt and accommodating. On investigation we find these complaints to be well founded. The evidence adduced from the records of the Custom-House settles us as to the fact that there is no legal proof of conspiracy to defraud, but that the public cartage system was made use of by persons in power at this port to extort from the government several thousand dollars per annum, much, while appearing to go into the hands of the nominal contractors, eventually reached these officers or their friends. The records of the public store show that the cost of public drayage for the year 1876 was 42½ cents per package, and for the year 1877 to June 1 it was 36 cents per package.
Since the first of June, the expense of carting has been reduced to 18 cents per package. Merchants testified before the commission that the cost of drayage to them, in the ordinary business, was from 6 to 11 cents per package. In consequence of the foregoing acts, we recommended the revocation of the present appointment of public drayman, which was made in accordance with instructions contained in the letter of February 5 and February 23, 1877, copies of which are hereto appended, and that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, in conformity to the provisions of the act of June 1, 1874, at a rate not to exceed 12 cents per package. The commission further recommend, in the case of sample packages, that the consignee be required to pay the sum of 25 cents on each package consigned to him, to cover the expense of carting and handling.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

(Special to the Democrat.)
CINCINNATI, Aug. 21.—Flour dull and drooping. Wheat firm, with a 20¢ bid. Corn and rye steady and unchanged. Whisky quiet, and higher; \$1.10. Pork nominal. Lard quiet, 8.55¢. Bacon steady and unchanged.
CHICAGO, Aug. 21.—Corn steady, 42½¢. Pork quiet, \$12.37½. September, \$12.45. October, \$12.50. Dry salt meats, boxed, steady, nominally, 56¢. Short rib 6½¢, short clear 7½¢, long clear 8½¢, long clear 9½¢. Whisky \$1.09.
ST. LOUIS, Aug. 21.—Flour low to sell. Wheat higher, 2 red \$1.25½, bid cash, 3¢. 1878 cash, \$1.19½. 1877 August, \$1.07½. 1877 October, 10¢. Corn better, 29½¢. Oats 40¢. September, 41½¢. 41½¢. Oats better, 26¢. 25½¢. Whisky quiet, \$1.09. Pork dull, jobbing at \$12.75. Bulk meats—nothing doing. Bacon and lard unchanged.

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Futures 1-2d cheaper; Uplands, Low Middling clause, August delivery, 5 1/4d; August and September, 5 1/4d; September and October, 5 1/4d; and November, 5 1/4d.

RIVER NEWS.

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MEMPHIS, Aug. 21.—Departed: Bee and barges for St. Louis.

Palais Royal.

Among the many changes to take place soon on the grand and honorable one will be more striking and more indicative of the good time to come than the swaying to the breeze the banners of the grand "Palais Royal." Our enterprising friend Levy, who has for so many years been the popular proprietor of the dollar store, No. 137 Canal street, seems to have had his faith shaken in republican institutions and ideas, and is determined, with one fell swoop, to obliterate the name of dollar store forever. He is making preparations for the opening of this elegant and gorgeous establishment, and nothing will be spared in making it the most attractive place in the Southern country. Levy's dollar store is known throughout the whole South, and as it has been known for its promptness in filling orders and the polite attention of the clerks, and the place to get everything, so will the Palais Royal grow into popular favor, for we will see in the large and gilded signs that are to adorn the building evidences of a new era, a property which we have longed for but never expected until the present time.

Buy your barges and carriages from L. T. Maddux, 35 Carondelet street, near corner Gravier.

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the substance of which has already been made public in the columns of the DEMOCRAT. Following next is the preliminary report of the commission, and next comes the final report, which we present in full:

CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW ORLEANS, August 4, 1877.

Sir—In their preliminary report of the 30th June, the commission appointed by the Hon. John E. King, Collector of Customs for this district, in compliance with instructions from the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, gave their views in regard to the force actually necessary to perform the labor incident to the business of this port, and the organization of the force, and while it appeared to them that certain of the employees were not up to the standard of character and efficiency which should be maintained in making appointments to public offices, they would leave such cases to be acted upon by the Collector. They are of opinion that further reductions than those recommended are impracticable at this time. In making investigation under part 2 to 7, inclusive, of their instructions, the commission has endeavored to ascertain, first, the actual record in regard to the past history of the Custom-House, and as to absenteeism on the part of the Collector and other chief officers, but he has neglected to comply with this request with regard to absenteeism, stating merely that he did not think it was the design or the desire of the honorable Secretary of the Treasury to enter into inquiry as to these matters, and further that the records of his office did not employ such cases, but he has not reported the same. Therefore, refrained from any such investigation, except so far as pertains to the manner of conducting routine business inaugurated under the late administration and in force at the present time. Consequently, they are of opinion that, after their final adjournment, many things which would otherwise have been brought to their notice will remain for investigation by the special agent of the Treasury Department assigned to this district.

COMPLAINTS OF MERCHANTS.

Notwithstanding the fact that the commission, by means of advertisements in the daily newspapers of New Orleans, and special communications addressed by the Collector to the Chamber of Commerce and Cotton Exchange, copies of which are hereto appended, advised all of the readiness to hear any complaint or suggestion bearing upon the administration of customs affairs at this port, but few of the leading brokers and merchants presented themselves, and these such cases as were referred to, were not given a sufficient cause for it, the commission are satisfied that many would have come before them had it not been for a fear that their facilities for doing business with the Custom-House would be such as to render it unprofitable to them, if they did so. This state of things has left the commission to their own resources for most of the information they have obtained of irregularities in the transaction of the business of this port.