CALIFORNIA FRUIT FARMS.

RAPID GROWTH OF A GREAT INDUSTRY.

IN THE LOS GATOS WARM BELT—HUNDREDS OF ACRES IN FRUIT AND WINES—ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF LAND.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 1.—It has been my custom for two years to spend the summer vacation on the southern edge of the Santa Clara valley in the foothills of the Santa Cruz mountains; hence, as this is one of the best fruit and grape districts in the State, there has been an excellent opportunity to judge of the work that must be done to make a California fruit farm, and of the profits which the orchardist may realize from his labor. To reach Saratoga Springs, the place of my sojourn, it is necessary to take the narrow gauge railroad which runs down through the great Santa Clara Valley. This road does not pass through Millbrae, Belmont, Menlo Park and the other places where the railway and mining millionaires of California have built palaces in the centre of great estates, worthy by their size and beauty to be the abodes of royalty. It hugs the bay-shore for many miles and then cuts directly south through the western corner of the valley into Santa Cruz County, and so reaches the ocean at the popular resort of Santa Cruz. In travelling over it one misses the finest part of the valley, but is recompensed by the wild and picturesque scenery of the lower part of the route, where the road winds through the mountain canyons and passes under the shadows of the great redwood forests.

Fifty-five miles from San Francisco, at Los Gatos, the valley suddenly narrows to a width of not more than three miles, and the rugged mountains, covered to their tops with a dense growth of chaparral, seem to hold it in their keeping. Here is the stopping-place for one who wishes to go to Saratoga. From this place a stage will carry the tourist over one of the pleasantest roads in the State, past a succession of the finest fruit farms, to the large hotel perched on the edge of a canyon and invisible from the road until one comes within a stone's throw of it.

IN THE MOUNTAIN CANYONS.

This was once a fashionable resort such as Monterey is to-day; but the tide of fashion changes here with great rapidity. It left this fine place stranded for several seasons; then its fortunes took a more favorable turn, and now it is well patronized by those who are partial to pure mountain air, superb scenery and rambles over picturesque trails. It gets its name from the little sleepy village of Saratoga, which backs to the sun a mile away; but its fame is due to a fine mineral spring, about a quarter of a mile from the hotel, the water of which is heavily impregnated with salt and soda, and is supposed to have some beneficial effect upon the system, though the sceptic is inclined to think that the bracing mountain air must be credited with the larger part of this service.

The country round about is peculiarly Californian, with scarcely a feature to remind an Eastern tourist of New-England or New-York scenery. At a little distance the mountains seem covered with some low shrub, and their summits show an occasional tall redwood tree, outlined against the sky-line, and bearing more resemblance to the monarch than to the Eastern pine. But when one approaches these mountains the shrubs are found to be a very growth of what is known to California as Chaparral. It is made up of the live oak, madrone, manzanita and several varieties of thorn bush. It is impenetrable to man or beast, although the "underland" may favor foot or paw opening through which he may make his way. Trails must be cut even for cattle, and mines to construct our tower soon grow up and leave no trace of the labor which has been expended on them. To be lost in these mountains is worse than to miss one's way to large timber, for once off the trail it will take you a half-day to make a distance of two or three miles. Except where the large oaks or redwoods have killed out the scrub, this thick growth is found. The live oak flourishes wherever any tree is found in California, but this mountain variety is stunted and gnarled, with a phenomenal development of root by which it clings to the steep hillsides. The madrone is a beautiful tree with a large leaf and a bark of a vivid red, smooth and soft to the touch. The manzanita is celebrated for its wood, which when dry, contains a larger amount of heating property than almost any other wood found in this country. It has the rich color of finely-polished rosewood, and it grows in the most fantastic shapes.

CLEARING AWAY THE CHAPARAL.

This chaparral originally covered all the foot-hills as well as the mountains in this district. Now the foot-hills are planted to orchards or vineyards, with occasional yellow grain fields, and far up the mountain sides small clearings may be seen. In fact, the face of the country has been changed in the last fifteen years by the discovery that in this belt of foot-hill country, sheltered from the ocean fogs by the high ridge of the Santa Cruz mountains, fruit and grapes could be raised of far finer quality than in the richer land of the valley below. The original settlers had never dreamed of such a thing. This land twenty years ago was held as dear at $10 an acre. It was used as pasture, the farmer putting in the level valley land to wheat and other grain. Fruit trees were set out, but unless near the house and constantly watered they withered and died. Irrigation was thought to be as necessary as in the Southern country, to insure success with fruit or vines.

This fallacy was exploded by a man who set out an orchard carefully cultivated it, and secured good crops. He demonstrated that all which was necessary was to keep the soil loose and friable, so that it could drink in the heavy dews which fall every night and serve the trees and crops in lieu of summer rains. His orchard and vineyard furnished practical proof to the incredulous; but he took care to tell his visitors that the proper cultivation of an orchard demanded more work than corn or potatoes, and that no return could be expected for at least three years.

A BOOM IN FRUIT GROWING.

But from apathy there was a sudden rebound to extreme activity in fruit-growing. Everyone seemed to catch the fever at about the same time. In a couple of years the best foot-hill land was stripped of its shaggy growth of chapparal, and was planted to apricot, almond and other fruit trees. At that time the soft shell almond was in great favor. Orchardists throughout the State saw in it the source of future wealth; it bore largely, and was declared to be sure of a crop every year. So in this district about Los Gatos, thousands of acres were planted to the almond. An orchard of these trees presents a beautiful appearance, so rusty is the growth, and so delicate the silvery leaf. But the fruit-growers found when it was too late that the almond was a delusion and a snare. It was too delicate to withstand the occasional late frosts; it was sensitive to soil, refusing to do well on any but well-drained fields; in a word, it could not be counted on for a good, paying crop more than once in four or five years. Meanwhile it required as careful cultivation as other fruit. The result was that the almond rapidly declined in favor, and the apricot usurped its place. A second cause resulted in favor of this fruit, which is neither peach nor plum, but with some of the good qualities of both. It was found to be specially adapted to canning, and the yield was enormous; so here was another scheme with millions in it. Another circle of years showed that the apricot did not fulfil expectations. It yielded well, brought a fair price, but it could not be marketed so well as the peach, and there was a limit to the demand for the canned goods, especially as the fruit had been planted in the Southern country by the thousand acres.

FORTUNES IN THE FRENCH PRUNES.

So on the principle that the third time never fails, the orchardists about four years ago settled down upon the French prune as the royal source of fortune, and from all appearances they will be successful at last. The prune is a hardier tree than the almond or apricot; it is a good bearer and may be counted on every year for a fine yield. At a little distance it looks very much like a young apple tree, but the leaf is larger, and the tree has a tendency to grow more like the peach. It would be unsafe to make an estimate of the number of acres planted every year in this section to the French prune, as no accurate record is kept; but in a drive of five miles one will see ten acres of prunes to a half-acre of all other kinds of fruit, of course, always excepting the grape, which shares popularity with the prune. And the singular feature of it is that nearly all these orchards were planted at about the same time, so that very few farmers have prune orchards of any size in actual bearing.

The finest orchard which I saw was one of 160 acres, some three miles from Los Gatos; the prune trees were three years old, all fine, lusty trees, set in rows about fourteen feet apart; the land was gently rolling, gravelly loam, as free from weeds as an onion bed in a family garden. Next year will see the owner of this orchard draw a royal revenue from these trees. The native dried prune brings fifteen cents a pound in the market, while ten cents is not an unusual price for the farmer to receive for large lots. The dried article is fully equal in flavor and size to the best imported French prune; the meat, if anything, is firmer and heavier, while the only defect is a skin a trifle thicker than that of the European variety. One thrifty young olive orchard showed that the olive could be grown in this section. Indeed, several expert fruit-growers claim that it has advantages over the Southern counties in producing fruit of a fine quality.

VINEYARDS ON THE HILLSIDES.

In spite of the mania for planting the prune, vine-growing holds its own here, and in the near future the vineyards which dot all these foot-hills with patches of vivid green will be the great source of wealth. The vine is hardier than any other fruit; it endures the cold winds which at certain seasons sweep through these mountains; it can be protected from vagrant frosts with far less trouble than other fruit, and it is not subject to insect pests, except in the Sonoma Valley, and one or two other localities where the phylloxera has gained a foothold. It is sure to yield a good return in the fourth year after planting, and the crop in the succeeding years is in geometrical ratio. The vines are cut down low to the ground, the stalk seldom being more than two feet high. The grapes cluster about this stalk, hiding under the thick leaves from the fierce heat of the noonday sun, and fifty pounds from each vine is the average picking on good land from vines that are ten years old.

The early vineyardists planted acre after acre to the common Mission grape, which the Franciscan fathers brought with them from Spain. It is a good table grape, when fresh from the vine, but it does not bear transportation well and it makes a poor wine. Now, the farmer, taught by dear experience, is setting out the choicest wine grapes which have been shown to do well in these soils, and the result cannot fail to be profitable to him, and of great advantage to the reputation of California wine. The Mission grape brings only $20 a ton, whereas some of the finer wine grapes are sold readily at $40 a ton; a good practical lesson of the value of quality in fruit. And another thing which may be said in favor of the grape is that the sale is sure. The demand for good grapes is increasing; it will always outrun the supply, unless the entire population should go into vine-growing. If a man does not care to pick his grapes, the wine-maker will buy his crop at good rates and relieve him of all trouble. Any other fruit involves more or less trouble with the commission merchant, whose fees and charges cut down materially the profits of the farmer.

RAPID RISE OF FRUIT LAND.

With such prospects before them is it any wonder that the owners of farms in this Los Gatos fruit belt have an exaggerated idea of the value of their unimproved land? It generally staggers the Eastern man who comes out here in search of a home to be asked $150 an acre for unimproved land and from $250 to $500 an acre for improved land. Several fine ranches, with good orchards and vineyards in full bearing, have been sold this year in the vicinity of Los Gatos for $300 an acre. This is not an excessive price, when one takes into consideration the labor which has been expended upon the land, and the care and skill lavished upon the fruit. In the East, when an orchard has reached the age of three or four years it is generally seeded to grass or clover, and the farmer contents himself with occasionally ploughing under the sod. Here, however, even old orchards cannot be treated so cavalierly. From the time when ploughing begins in February and March, until the middle of June or the first of July, the plough or the cultivator must be run through the orchard every three or four weeks, while the hoe-hands must follow each cultivation to keep the weeds from about the trees. This work of ploughing or cultivating cannot be intrusted to poor hands, as great care is required to keep the single tree from bruising the bark of the trees. Which ploughing on level land is not difficult, but on the steep sides of the foot-hills it is not an easy task. Grapes do not require so much cultivation as fruit trees, but pruning and tying to the stakes is labor which must be done thoroughly if one expects a good crop.

In fact the California orchard or vineyard demands the constant attention of its owner during the greater part of the year. He gets less interest than the wheat grower or the general farmer, although he has his compensation when his trees come to be full bearing of an income much larger than they can hope to get from the best land.

SOME HINTS TO EASTERN PURCHASERS.

To escape the best results from these foot-hill ranches, however, it is necessary that the owner should give his personal supervision to the framework, or the margin of profit will disappear entirely. All about Los Gatos are fine places, whose owners are wealthy San Francisco men. They raise fruit and grapes on the station which Horace Greeley pronounced at Cheyenne and which Henry Ward Beecher follows at Peekskill. They are of great advantage to the farmers in the vicinity, because they try experiments which to most farmers would be ruinous; but their example is not for small means or farmers, who desire to settle on a place, and to thus make it self-supporting. The Eastern man who comes out here to get a home on the fringe of this great Santa Clara valley should be especially careful in making his selection. The imagination of the local real estate agent is more prolific than the soil, and the stories of profits and crops must be taken with many grains of allowance. It is best for the new comer to defer purchase until he has been the routine of work, and had an opportunity to test the qualities of the soil. He may be delayed a year in establishing a home, but the experience will be that without the delay he will regret that he did not buy some neighboring place with better natural advantages of site and soil. All the conditions are so widely different from anything he has been accustomed to in the East, that extra prudence in making a decision is the only way to escape from blunders. The heading rush of inexperienced people into the fruit-growing business is the reason why so many farms are for sale in all the fruit districts of California. No man who has not means enough to keep his family for three years after he brings a fruit ranch should attempt to go into the business; and if he undertakes wine-making the larger his capital the greater will be his profits. California wine and sandy brandy would have a far better reputation at home and abroad if our vineyardists and wine-makers had the capital to keep their wine in stock for ten years. The unloading of fresh wine upon the public is not profitable to the maker, while it is a positive detriment to the good name of the wine.

SOME STATISTICS OF PROFIT.

It is hazardous to give figures of profits on a fruit ranch or vineyard, because the yield varies so greatly in different parts of the State. It is safe to say, however, that three tons of grapes to the acre may be raised on any land which has had decent care. These, if Mission grapes, will bring $20 a ton; if Zinfandel or Charrelas or other choice wine grapes all the way from $30 to $40 a ton. The cost of cultivation varies from $25 to $10 an acre, so that the margin of profit depends mainly upon the quality of the grape. Three tons to the acre is a low yield. Five tons is more usual, and in rich valley land as many as fourteen tons have been raised on one acre. Fruit, of course, varies much more than grapes, but it is claimed for the French prune that when in good bearing it will bring in a profit of not less than $100 an acre, clear of all expenses of cultivation, while other fruits fall only a little behind this in revenue. These figures are naturally attractive to the amateur fruit-grower. They are misleading only when they blind him to the years of unremunerative labor which must enter into the production of a good orchard or vineyard.

MOTT STREET THOROUGHLY AROUSED.

MERCHANTS, LAUNDRYMEN AND BOYS IN A WARLIKE MOOD—COMMON ANTI-FRENCH TALK.

The Chinese of New-York and its vicinity take a fierce interest in the present war that is totally at variance with their usual stolidism and phlegm. Even the small boys who are employed in the numerous laundries daily visit Mott-st. to hear the latest news and to discuss modern warfare with their elders. At No. 5 Mott-st. there is a small bulletin board, on which twice a day are posted dispatches translated into Chinese by the editor of the "Chinese Question." The place is crowded to a late hour every night with laundrymen, cooks, stewards, chambermaids and clerks.

A reporter called upon Wu Kee, who has a large incoming house at No. 8 Mott-st., and was cordially received. Asked as the war was mentioned Mr. Wu became excited and said: "The American government should have declared war upon France long ago. They are and long have been jealous of the mercantile superiority of the English, Americans and Germans in Chinese territories, and desire to attain an equal or better footing than their rivals. If they took the right course no one would object to their progress, but whenever and wherever they obtain a footing they treat our race not even like slaves, but like wild beasts. I am only expressing the opinion of my countrymen generally when I say 'let us fight to the last.'"

"Won't a war ruin your business?"

"I would gladly lose every cent in this store and chase the poisonous French, rather than to see them triumph in the present conflict. They may destroy our fortifications, but they cannot conquer us. We are after and are willing to have a hundred die in order to kill one Frenchman. Even on this basis, terrible as it is, we can eventually win. European science and warfare give them a vast advantage over us, I admit, and especially upon the water, but on land courage and desperation make up for lack of science, and there we can destroy them. They know this and never land, but within their own iron shells sail from port to port like a band of cowardly pirates, destroying property and massacring all the innocent inhabitants that they can."

Quong Hong Lung, a prominent merchant, of No. 5 Mott-st., was highly indignant at Admiral Courbet, and said: "It's all on a par with everything France has done in the past ten years. Ever since she was vanquished by the Germans she has been getting cheap glory by attacking petty principalities and peaceful nations. Algiers, Tunis, Morocco, Madagascar, and Tonquin make up her glorious record. Now she attacks China mainly because she believes that China won't fight. France is said to be the land of liberty and noble motives. Now she is the country of covetousness and arrogance. She will never land on Chinese soil unless some other powers co-operate with her. I'll bet $100 to $50 that the French will never land, and I'll bet $100 to $10 that, if they land, their forces will be annihilated."

THE BRITISH CONSUL REPLIES.

J. Pierrepont Edwards, acting British Consul-General, sent the following to the Commissioners of Emigration yesterday, in reply to a letter to him protesting against interference in the dispute between the Anchor Steamship Line and the Commissioners, in regard to returning assisted immigrants:

"I have to thank you for your letter of yesterday concerning the emigrant John Cahill. Permit me to point out that it would be a mistake to suppose that my action in this and similar cases has been exclusively in behalf of or prompted by any particular British steamship company. Pray accept my assurance that, so far as possible, I shall at all times be most willing to co-operate with you in the enforcement of the British or United States emigration laws, and the regulations in conformity herewith."

Commissioner Stephenson said that the letter was not only courteous and satisfactory, but convinced him that when the first letter of Mr. Edwards was written, matters had been misrepresented to him by the Anchor Line.

Another case of a pauper immigrant permitted to come ashore from the steamship Furnessia by her officers contrary to law was reported to the Commissioners and Collector Robertson yesterday. The person was Bridget Hicken, age sixty-five, from County Donegal, Ireland. She had been three months in the county poor-house, and was assisted in her passage to the United States. The Commissioners refused her permission to land, and her escape will be reported to the Treasury Department.

NEWS FROM STATE CENTRES.

BUFFALO.

LIFE SAVING—A SURPRISING WEDDING—MARGARET MATHER—POLITICS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

BUFFALO, Aug. 29.—An official trial of life saving apparatus was held at the local station yesterday, under direction of Superintendent Dobbins. The experiments were witnessed by a large number of spectators, and included tests of various classes of self-righting boats and mortar firing. Among the visitors were officers of the United States steamer Michigan and of the supply boat Haze, now in port.

The marriage of Miss Elizabeth M. Love, a lady prominent in local society, and Ebenezer Cary, a connection of the bride and owner of extensive cotton plantations in Guatemala, took place this noon at Trinity Church, and created a great sensation as none of the immediate family knew the ceremony was to occur till a few hours beforehand. Even intimate friends were totally ignorant of the engagement, and the wedding was a complete surprise. After a short tour in the East, the wedded pair will leave for their Guatemala home.

Elaborate preparations have been made for the first appearance of Margaret Mather as "Lady Macbeth" at the Opera House next week. The scenery and costumes will be entirely new, and daily rehearsals have been held for the past two weeks. Over 100 carefully drilled supernumeraries will be engaged in the performance. Representatives of the press are expected from Boston, Chicago and other cities where she first appeared in this role. Manager Hill has redecorated the house throughout, at large expense, and a new curtain and complete outfit of scenery have been painted. Unique features of the theatre are a room for newspaper men and dressing rooms well furnished.

The Academy of Music has had a prosperous week with "The Silver King," the principals being Frederick De Belleville and Eleanor Carey, whose reception has been enthusiastic. "The Black Flag" follows next week. This house has also been handsomely redecorated and refurbished for the season.

The Buffalo polo team, selected to play at Newport next week, left the city yesterday with their ponies. They are the same players who won the victories over the Meadow Brook Hunt team of New-York last season.

Ivan D. Michoff, a Bulgarian student recently graduated from Princeton, lectured here this week for the purpose of raising funds to carry him through the theological school, where he will return home as a missionary.

It was reported this week that the missing merchant, James B. Clarke, had been found in a Western city, but the family pronounce the report unfounded, and say that nothing has been heard of him since he left home six weeks ago, when he was in Montreal. It is thought possible that he may have sailed for Liverpool from Canada. A second investigation of the trust funds formerly in Mr. Parker's hands shows that they are all secure.

The week has been remarkable for the activity of the Republican campaign in the small towns throughout the county. Enthusiastic meetings have been held nightly, and it has been difficult to fill the call for speakers from the city. Flag raisings and wigwam dedications have been reported in great numbers from all sides. The usual meetings have been held here always with full attendance. The largest banner in the city was hung across Hallock-st. this week by the Blaine and Logan Club.

ROCHESTER.

WATER WANTED—A NEW JAIL—LODER'S "TACTICS"—DRAMATIC.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ROCHESTER, Aug. 29.—Several prominent millowners and gentlemen interested in the water power of the city met this forenoon, to take concerted action upon a grievance which they claim to have against the State. It is claimed that the canal authorities have decreased the supply of water in the races by placing "flash boards" on top of the State dam on the Genesee River, increasing its height eight inches, and by opening the feeder gates. This is the cause of great inconvenience and loss to millers. Flouring mills which should be making seventy-five barrels of flour daily are not producing more than ten barrels. A large number of men are thrown out of employment, and many others are working on short time. The cause of all the trouble is said to be the fact that old grass has been permitted to grow on the sixty mile level of the canal, and now obstructs the flow of water from Lake Erie, thus making it necessary to draw more water than usual from the river here. The millers and owners of water rights are indignant that their business should be crippled for lack of water, and propose to have redress if possible. After a preliminary discussion of the matter, a committee was appointed to confer with Canal Superintendent Shanahan.

The Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg road's earnings for the month of July show an increase of about $10,000. The statement for nine months ending June 30, 1884, shows: Gross earnings, $1,200,124; operating expenses, $832,722; net, $367,421. The operating expenses were 67 per cent, against 83 per cent last year.

The Board of Supervisors has at last decided to purchase the Hollister property on Exchange-st. for a jail site, and to sell the old property to Hollister & Co. The consideration is $20,000. President Jewett, of the Erie road, telegraphed the board yesterday that in case a change was made the Erie road should purchase land and a right of way, and build a new depot on Central.

The beautiful chapel of Nazareth Convent was crowded at 7 o'clock this morning by the relatives and friends of Miss Mary Brennan, of Avon, and others who had assembled to witness her reception into the order of Sisters of St. Joseph. Three novices made their final vows at the same time yesterday. The services were conducted by Bishop Mcquaid.

George D. Forsyth, attorney for Kidlingsney Brothers, has received information that all writings and effects of Lieutenant Kidlingsney will be retained by the Government until a final decision is rendered as to the recognized administration.

George E. Loder, Eminent Commander and Drill Master of Monroe Commandery, K. T., No. 12, which is recognized as the best drilled company of men in America, has just published his tactics and drill, a comprehensive book for commanders. It contains much information and instruction. The Grand Commandery of the State of New-York has adopted the tactics officially.

Milton Nobles will appear in his new play "Love and Law" at the Opera House late next week; and Margaret Mather, supported by Frederick Paulding will open the regular season at the Academy of Music on September 8.

SYRACUSE.

REUNION OF COLORED VETERANS—PAVING JOBS—COUNTY FAIR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

SYRACUSE, Aug. 29.—Extensive preparations are being made by the colored people of this city for the grand reunion of colored veterans of the war in Central New-York, to be held here on October 1, in commemoration of the Jerry rescue, one of the most notable events in the history of the anti-slavery movement. Frederick Douglass will be the orator of the day.

The Geddes Union School has been placed under the control of the Regents of the University. This is an important movement in the interest of higher education in this thriving suburb of Syracuse.

A girls' industrial school, under the auspices of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, is becoming one of the cherishable features of benevolent enterprise in this city. A library of twenty volumes, donated by a generous citizen, forms the nucleus of what may become a valuable adjunct.

The Syracuse Savings Bank, which has been involved in protracted litigation with regard to certain Seneca Falls bonds, has succeeded in obtaining an order vacating an injunction. It was claimed that the bonds were an over-issue, but the evidence showed that this position was untenable; hence the vacating order.

The first general Republican rally of the campaign took place on Tuesday. It was a creditable demonstration.

Congressman Frank Hiscock has gone to Maine, where he is to deliver campaign speeches during the coming week.

E. B. Judson, president of the First National Bank and vice-president of the National Bankers' Association, has been spending a portion of the summer at his farm on the Hudson River, near Hudson.

The prolific topic of discussion in the Municipal Council is the manner in which contract work is performed. The city fathers are achieving a great reputation by their vigorous condemnation of various paving jobs. Nevertheless, to the honest citizen it is not apparent that the weekly displays of Aldermanic eloquence avail to give better streets. The City Engineer and Surveyor comes in for a large share of responsibility in the matter.

An unusual feature in the past week's history has been a camp-meeting of Seventh-Day Adventists on the outskirts of the city. One of the city papers notes as a remarkable fact "the absence of any element of discord." The daily meetings were well attended and fairly successful.

The Onondaga County Fair, held annually in this city in September, will this year be opened on September 16. Officers, managers, farmers and exhibitors generally are stirring themselves in anticipation, and the indications point to the most successful exhibition of the kind ever held in Syracuse.

Charles C. Courtney, the great American sculler who has been tabooed by all the professional oarsmen of the country, says he is going to row on Onondaga Lake to regain his reputation and re-establish himself in the public esteem. Sporting men say that they have had promises enough.

Theatrical matters are just now at a low ebb. The best that can be said is that there is room for improvement. A season that starts out with "An Adamless Eden" makes about as poor a beginning as can be imagined. "The Masotte," "Billee Taylor" and "Olivette" fill up the week's measure of entertainment.

State Senator Dennis McCarthy has returned from a fortnight's sojourn in the North Woods.

An interesting surgical operation is in progress here. Some weeks ago the hair of a young girl, Julia O'Donnell, caught in some machinery and she was completely scalped in an instant. Under skilful treatment she is recovering, and if the transplanting of living skin to her head continues as successfully as it has been begun, the restoration will be complete. Thus far forty pieces of skin from the arms of the girl's friends have been applied in this manner and have grown fast. Julia will soon have a crazy scalp of the most approved pattern.

The division of Bishop McNierney's Roman Catholic diocese, which has so long been talked of, is said by prominent Catholics to have become a settled fact, and to be about to be put in operation at once. The interest that Syracuse has in the matter lies in the fact that it aspires to be the cathedral city of the new diocese. The new St. Mary's Cathedral approaches completion. It will surpass in grandeur and magnificence any church edifice in the State outside the metropolis.

"Old Salt," as Thomas G. Alvord is familiarly called, has returned from his summer vacation on the St. Lawrence River. He is looking well, and says his health has not been so good in some years. He is a member of the Lunmatic fraternity of New-York City.

Several notable weddings have occurred within a few days, among them that of Miss M. Estella Shepard, daughter of Chancellor G. R. Sims, of Syracuse University.

The ecclesiastical directory of Onondaga County, as the Rock Spring Directory is the only directory of the present week, has shown no sign the weapon to quit La Motte's knife, which the contents were discharged into his own breast. Schuyler's funeral took place on Tuesday from the Church of the Ascension. It was to have been his wedding day, but the blow which ended his life came so suddenly that the preparations were being performed in the same place every hour and early.

The residential annual vacation of the 1221 New-York Volunteers was held at Watson's station on Thursday. This was one of the veteran regiments sent out by Onondaga county.

The hop dealers are busy places just now, it being the beginning of the hop-picking season. Thousands of pickers have gone out from this city, requiring special trains every day of the week. The hop crop throughout is of fine quality, but short in quantity, being about three-quarters the full crop.

A prize a wrapper to be known as *The Commercial Gazette*, is announced for May next. A. P. Fallon, formerly city editor of *The Standard*, and also connected with newspaper enterprises in Oneida and Oswego, is understood to be its manager.

ALBANY.

PARTY HARMONY—THE ARCHITECTS—A SUNKEN BOAT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Aug. 29.—The two Republican general committees of this county during the past week have both advanced propositions looking toward the restoration of harmony. The Draper Committee proposes to refer questions of difference to James D. Warren, chairman of the State Committee, or, Mr. Draper himself as chairman of the State Committee, or Senator McCarthy, or Speaker Sheard. The other committee has accepted the proposition on the conditions that the referee thus named shall be considered as the representative of the Draper Committee and that the other committee be empowered to name a referee to act with him. In case of disagreement, these two are to choose a third arbiter. *The Albany Journal* and *Express* have been influential in promoting the endeavors to secure united action.

Nearly every ward in this city and every town in the county has a well organized and equipped Blaine and Logan club. The interest in the campaign on the Republican side is deeper than it has been before in recent years and enrolment in many of the wards is as far progressed as it usually is in September. Several of the clubs, in addition to doing duty in processions, have voted to canvass their respective wards and attend the polls on election day.

The State Civil Service Commission has approved the Civil Service rules of New-York and Brooklyn. These are the only ones which have been thus far approved.

The Prohibition camp meeting at Round Lake is attracting a large attendance from Albany. The Rev. S. V. V. Leach, chaplain of the Senate, has taken part in its proceedings.

The engagement of Miss Harriet D. Ramsey, daughter of Joseph H. Ramsey, to the Rev. Pierre Pascal Harrower, formerly assistant minister of St. Peter's Church, is announced. Dr. Harrower has received lately a call to Staten Island.

The committee on arrangements for the convention of the American Institute of Architects, to be held here on October 22, has made provision for visits to the public buildings and to points of historical interest, including the Manor House, the Schuyler mansion and the Van Rensselaer mansion. It is the intention of the committee to invite commissioners in art and other gentlemen to be present. The session will end with a dinner.

The Ridgfield Athletic Association has expended $5,000 on its grounds and buildings which will be ready for occupation in the spring.

Navigation on the river has been endangered for several days by the sinking of a canal boat, loaded with iron, in the channel just below Castleton. The channel is very narrow at this point, and a strong wind might blow passing steamers on the wreck.

TROY.

THE CATHOLIC RETREAT—IRON TRADE DULL—PERSONAL.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

TROY, Aug. 29.—The retreat of the clergy of the archdiocese of New-York began Tuesday evening at St. Joseph's Theological Seminary. The Rev. Father Doonan, president of Georgetown College, is conducting the retreat. Among the noted priests present are Michael A. Corrigan, D.D., Coadjutor Bishop; Mgr. William Quinn, Vicar General; and Mgr. John M. Farley. The retreat will end Saturday morning, when Archbishop Corrigan will celebrate mass and the priests will receive the holy communion.

Colonel Francis Weiss, of this city, has accepted an invitation from the National Republican Committee to take the stump for Blaine and Logan. Colonel Weiss will speak in German to the German voters of Ohio and other Western States.

The iron works present a deserted appearance this week, nearly all of the mills being idle. D. H. Lentz, superintendent of the Albany Iron Works, has returned from a business trip among the Western iron works. He reports the iron trade dull, but manufacturers confident. He says they look for better times and an improvement in business after election.

The name of the Round Lake Camp Meeting Association for all save legal purposes has been changed to the Round Lake Park Association; and a proposition is pending to admit to the board of trustees members of any evangelical church instead of confining the selection to Methodists merely, as is now the case. Next summer there is to be a grand soldiers' gathering extending over three days at the park.

The dry goods firm of W. C. Winnie & Co. has been dissolved, and the establishment sold to a Boston house. The concern dated back to 1848, and was one of the oldest in the city.

The volunteer steamer company will leave on Monday night upon an excursion to Baltimore. Doring's Band and about thirty guests, including ex-Congressman Charles Hughes and several city officials, will accompany them.

The resignation of the Rev. Simon Rohrer, pastor of the Church of Christ, has been accepted and will take effect December 1.

Two engagements in fashionable life were announced this week; that of Miss Anna Warren, daughter of ex-Mayor George B. Warren, of this city, to Casimer de Raimi, son of Charles de Raimi, of New-York; and that of W. Stone Smith, of the firm of Burdett, Smith & Co., to Miss Alice B. Goss.

NATIONAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CONGRESS.

SOME OF THE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—The Quinquennial International Postal Congress, called to meet at Lisbon in October, will consider business of great importance connected with the International Postal system. Mr. Crawford, superintendent of foreign mails, is engaged examining the matters to be laid before the Congress with a view to determining the attitude the United States representatives shall assume in the deliberations. The propositions already submitted to the members of the Postal Union are divided into nine distinct heads as follows:

First—Modifications of the original Paris convention. Many propositions are included under this head. One of the greatest importance is intended to compel the introduction of post cards with prepaid reply, with an amendment requiring countries not using the cards in their domestic service to allow their admission into circulation when coming from other countries. These cards are not in use in the United States at present, and, although Congress authorized the Postmaster-General to introduce them, he was forbidden to pay royalty on patented articles, and a suitable card cannot be procured. Another important amendment provides for the declaration of ownership of letters in transit. Confusion exists on this point at present, nations being divided between the claims of the sender and the addressee.

Second—This head includes a mass of proposed amendments of the regulations under the Paris convention.

Third—Under this head is a proposition to establish a uniform international money order system. The project is not likely to secure the support of the United States Post-office Department, as it is regarded as a hazardous experiment, involving radical changes in our money order system as it exists. Although the scheme might be successfully operated in the closely adjoining countries of Europe, it is not believed to be adapted to the different conditions existing in the United States.

Fourth—This head includes a provision for the exchange of small merchandise packets without declared values. Some European countries now exchange matter of this class by mutual arrangement and books are admitted to this way into the United States, but the extension of the practice to general merchandise would involve great changes in our customs system, and it is opposed by the Treasury Department.

Fifth—A sort of letter insurance system is provided for under this head, which contains a proposition to exchange letters of declared value. The cost of the stamp to be placed upon the letter is to be regulated by the declared value of the letter, and the sender is to be allowed a proportion of loss or depredation to a fixed amount, including a fee (600) being suggested.

Sixth—A proposition under this head is to collect through the post, bills, notes of exchange, checks and commercial values generally, not in excess of 750 francs.

Seventh—This head makes provision for a uniform method of preparing statistics of the postal service throughout the Postal Union, and has given the Bureau great labor among the members of the Union. Belgium and Denmark opposed the scheme, and were in accordance of some force, which probably reflect the views of the United States Government. Other statistics are now furnished under the Postal Union, but they are very meagre and incomplete, and the Belgian representative thinks the proposition of the complete statistics for two years is too much for the proposition would involve an amount of labor disproportionate to the advantages to be obtained.

Eighth—This head contemplates the publication through government announcements and advertisements relating to postal matters concerning postal service in foreign countries. Resolutions have been adopted and may be accepted, subject to this country's approval, between the various countries concerned, but the necessity of the scheme is not apparent to the Postal Department.

Ninth—This head is devoted to a proposition to introduce small cards of identification as a system now in vogue in the Russian Service. It is the intention of commercial travellers, which it is proposed to engraft with these cards by which will serve to establish their identity and enable them to receive without delay through the post valuable remittances and parcels forwarded by their employers. Germany has investigated the scheme and argues strongly against its adoption by the Union, as leading to numerous, vexatious and unnecessary abuse.

Few of the propositions submitted are likely to secure the support of the representatives of the United States. The theory of the Post Office Department has been that such special arrangements, while not increasing the postal revenues to any considerable extent, only tend to embarrass the operations of the office and divert its energies from the proper objects of its creation. Some of the editions of the Postal Guide are issued in European countries, and even among the foreign officials there is a sense of opposition to the utility of these editions.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT SITE.

THE TITLE TO IT VESTED IN A PRIVATE SOCIETY AND NOT IN THE UNITED STATES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—The announcement that the heirs of Notley Young propose to contest the title to a central rectangular portion of the water front of this city, including the site of the Washington Monument, has caused the title lawyers to give a new investigation to the title of the District. The investigations show that the title to the Washington National Monument site, contrary to public opinion, is not in the United States, but in what was known as the Washington Monumental Society. The site of the Washington Monument was conveyed to the society by President Polk and others acting with them in 1848, and there are on record no instruments reconveying the land to the United States. The title examiners have expressed the opinion that the Association can hold under title instruments the title to the grounds and the improvements; so that, as a matter of fact, while the title to the site does not seem to be in the heirs of Notley Young, it remains subject to the United States and the early Washington Monument has been held to be in the hands of a private society.

THE LABOR BUREAU COMMISSIONERSHIP.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—The expected early return of the President seems to increase the interest in the vacant Commissionership of the Labor Bureau. The friends of P. H. McDonald, Editor of *The Labor Standard*, of Paterson, N. J., who is also inspector of factories under the Child Labor act of that State, have presented his name to the President, and feel confident that it will be favorably received. Mr. McDonald is an able man, and accustomed to investigations of the character entrusted to the Bureau.

John Fehlinghuisen, present chief inspector of steamboats on the Ohio River, will also be urged upon the President's attention. He was the organizer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and author of the bill under which the Ohio Bureau of Labor Statistics was organized.

William Goodwin Moody, the author of several books on land and labor, is in the city, an applicant for the position, with strong endorsements from leading New England members of the American Social Science Association. Mr. Moody is a man of ability, with radical conducts, among which is his strong opposition to trades unions. His particular hobby is the restitution of the ownership of land.

Nothing has been at the Interior Department, or elsewhere in official circles, as to the President's intentions.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics in his first monthly statement for the first fiscal year, of the imports and exports of the United States, says the excess of the value of exports over imports, or of imports over exports of merchandise was as follows:

Month ended July 31, 1884, excess of imports	$382,616
Seven months ended July 31, 1884, excess of exports	10,323,180
Twelve months ended July 31, 1884, excess of exports	76,886,113

The total values of imports of merchandise during the twelve months ended July 31, 1884, were $667,830,002 and during the preceding twelve months $714,356,066, a decrease of $46,526,064. The values of the exports of merchandise during the twelve months ended July 31, 1884, were $742,210,118 and during the twelve months ended July 31, 1883, were $822,103,245, a decrease of $79,893,127. During the twelve months ended July 31, 1884, the exports of gold and silver coin and bullion amounted to $68,709,088 and the imports $30,507,400, an excess in exports of $29,362,088. During the preceding twelve months the exports amounted to $26,402,089 and the imports $29,454,300, an excess in imports of $2,051,311.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHING