Vermont Farmer

St. Johnsbury, Vt., July 3, 1874.

A permanent arrangement has been completed, as will be seen by reference to the business card on the first page, whereby I assume the editorial management of the FARMER, in which capacity I have acted since the retirement of Dr. Hoskins in April. The principles which will govern the FARMER have been already announced recently, and I will only say that, being a farmer of the farmers in education and practice in the past, my sympathies are with the farmers and working classes, and my constant effort shall be the promotion of their interests. Thanking those friends who have within the past two months sent so many cheering letters approving the course of the FARMER, I trust by constant devotion to the cause of agricultural and industrial improvement that I shall merit and continue to receive the good will of the readers of the FARMER. To this end I ask the coöperation of friends in all parts of the state in the form of practical contributions to the columns of the paper. The business affairs of the FARMER remain, as they have done from its first appearance, under the personal management of Mr. Cummings, the proprietor, to whom business letters should be addressed.

WM. H. WHEELER.

AGRICULTURAL HORSE RACING.

As the season of fairs approaches again we see the annual array of inducements held out to jockeys and gamblers to step in and help run the machine and as a reward for their noble services carry off the lion's share of the prizes, as well as a handsome sum raked in through bets, pools, &c.

The question of the morality of the race we do not propose to discuss here, but is it *policy* for the farmers' societies to take a course which tends to throw the principal part of the profits of their fairs into other hands, while they sustain the principal burdens? The object of the fairs is the improvement of the system of farming of the country, by stimulating competition as to quality and quantity of products. The premiums paid are in themselves of small import, though it is eminently worth while to see that they are fairly and evenly distributed, and that prizes are offered in those classes where they will do the most good in increasing the actual value of our products. Every one likes to own and drive a fast horse, but for practical use on the farm, as in almost any business, there are other qualities far more essential than being able to trot a mile in 2:30.

Horses hold a prominent rank among the productions of Vermont, but they are of no more importance than the dairy, beef cattle, or wool interests, and should receive no larger share of the premiums at *agricultural* fairs. If city sports who can afford it wish to support sporting clubs, we have no objections, but we do hope and believe that the good example set by the grangers in California recently in exposing the manifest injustice of the distribution of prizes whereby horses received the greater part of the state society's funds will be imitated in Eastern states until the practical benefits derived by the farmers from their societies will become much greater than it now is.

Farmers as a class have been too much disposed to allow others to manage affairs wherein they were interested, and this is not alone true of politics. We sincerely hope that the question of a proper distribution of prizes at fairs will not be overlooked in the "reform era" which appears to be dawning. Let the best cattle, the best butter and cheese, and similar products have an equal show with horses, and while giving reasonable inducements to the development of speed in horses, let equal attention be paid to fast walking, (which is of far more advantage on the farm than fast trotting,) and to strength as draft animals, power of endurance, &c., and the true mission of the agricultural fairs—the improvement of the products of the farm—will be better fulfilled.

The *American Rural Home*, in an article which we copied last week, speaking of the class of persons who attend races says:

Now farmers, as a class, have their opinion of these persons, though they are not much given to expressing this opinion; but when they assemble together to hold a state or county fair for the display of the products of their industry, and for the encouragement of the young, they look, as a class, with indignation upon the whole tribe of sharpers who crowd themselves in, and especially upon the racing characters, who strive to make their worthless pursuit a chief attraction.

If this be true, "farmers, as a class," will manifest their disapproval by ceasing to offer such inducements as they have been in the habit of doing to this very class to come to their fairs and take such a prominent place there. Those who control an agricultural society are responsible for the manner in which its affairs are administered, and if they offer more attractions to jockeys and gamblers than to stock breeders or other farmers they must expect results accordingly.

EXTORTION.

We notice that the supreme court has just rendered a decision to the effect that the usual agreement signed by senders of messages by telegraph that the company shall not be liable for blunders is void, and has awarded $900 damages to a Bangor firm for loss sustained through a blunder in a message. We are surprised at this; so, no doubt, are the telegraph folks. It is generally supposed that powerful corporations like telegraph, railroad, and express companies can to a certain extent control the execution of the laws if not, as virtually claimed by some Western roads, superior to the law-making power which gave them their charter and made it possible for them to exist.

We have a word to say in regard to express companies. The terms "monopoly," "extortion," and "rings" have been harped upon until they are nearly worn out, but here is a place where they can all be applied without exaggeration, and even without fully expressing the facts. Every business man is aware of the exorbitant rates charged by the express companies in many instances, and of the various ways in which they combine to extort the last cent possible from their patrons. A case in point: We recently sent to New York for a quantity of roller composition, and knowing the fondness of the express companies to do a good deal of business expressly ordered it sent "via Worcester," that being the shortest route. By some means the shipper neglected to mark the package as directed and the express company as usual made it in their way to send it by Essex Junction and White River Junction, and charged us $1.25 for bringing 31 pounds by that roundabout route. This systematic extortion is carried to such an extent that it is high time something were done to remedy it and bring these companies down to such a level that some of the rights of private citizens might become visible to their organs of perception.

The abatement of this evil by competition is out of the question, but the private citizens of the United States have recently discovered that they have *some* "rights which corporations are bound to respect," and in view of the fact we live in hopes.

HUMBUGS.

Humbugs are the order of the day in America. It is surprising what a propensity to be humbugged exists in the mind of the American public, but it is a propensity which will always find plenty of Yankee geniuses ready to cater to it—for the profits. We propose this week, for the enlightenment of those of our readers who may not be posted in such matters, to give a little space to some of these enterprises, and we shall charge them nothing for what advertising we do for them.

The principal means by which swindling concerns who do business on a large scale work themselves into the public confidence is through the aid of the country press. The profits of printing a weekly newspaper are small enough at best, and when an offer for the insertion of an advertisement, with sure cash pay, comes along, it needs more moral courage than the average newspaper publisher possesses to resist the temptation to shut one eye to the moral side of the question and insert the advertisement.

Many of the humbugs which are afloat are of a strictly "legal" character and it is seldom that *their* advertisements are refused or hesitated over by publishers. "Agents wanted, $5 to $20 per day guaranteed;" "Employment, all classes, male or female, in a highly lucrative business;" "A fortune; how? by speculating in stocks and bonds;" "Puts and calls;" "Secrets of success in Wall Street;" these are a few of the headings of strictly "legal" advertisements which draw many an unwary youth into speculations which afford a fine chance to make money—for some one else.

Of one thing all may rest assured: People are not apt for the sum of twenty-five or fifty cents to impart information which is actually worth five, ten, or a hundred dollars; nor are shrewd business men in the habit of giving "$5 to 20 per day" to every one who comes along and starting them out as agents. For those who invest in stock speculations, or who send cash for packages of counterfeit money, we have small sympathy when they find that they have been duped and swindled out of their money, and have no means of redress. They undertook to make money dishonestly, and were treated as they would have treated others.

But there are plenty of cases which deserve sympathy, but which rarely get it. In this instance "an ounce of preventive is worth a pound of cure." If people would realize the fact that money received without being earned by adequate services is not honestly received, and would set their faces against all offers of sudden wealth, contenting themselves with earning a little at a time and taking good care of that little, they would be happier and more successful.

Generally the victims of advertising swindlers are boys living in or near the villages, but all classes are fished after by various sharpers. The grangers are not exempted, as we see by the the following from a late issue of the *Prairie Farmer*:

During the past week another bold attempt to swindle the people of the country has been brought to light. This time it is an effort to beat "that great monopoly, the sewing machine ring." It was to be done by supplying all the purchasers with English machines, it being alleged in the first circular of the operator, that the patents on sewing machines had all expired there, that labor was cheap, and that the cost of manufacture was from $8 to $10; that they could be brought to Canada for $2 each, and sold there for $20 and a fine profit realized. He also pretends to have an arrangement by which he avoids the payment of duties, except to the amount of about $4. He proposes to sell the machines at $22. He will ask of the purchaser only the $4 for duties, and will take three months notes for the balance.

Of course, like all the sharks, he has "gone for" the grange trade. So he issues the following circular:

"OFFICE OF A. W. LOCKE, CHICAGO, Apr. 1.

"Since issuing my former circular, I have been strongly urged to have my business made known to the people by sending my circulars direct to the Secretaries or Masters of different Granges; and meeting with such good success, I have concluded to do the principal part of my business through the assistance of the grange officers.

I desire that my business should become widely known, and to do so I am compelled to restrict the number of orders from each grange, owing to the limited number of orders that can be filled this year, I cannot fill more than four or five from each grange, and one or two orders would suit me better, as it would not exhaust my supply in a few granges, but will enable me to scatter them through a great many, and open the way for next year's trade, when I shall be prepared to fill much larger orders.

"Any Master or Secretary of a grange is hereby authorized to act as my agent in their granges, and when any order is sent the amount of United States duties must be inclosed, as the United States government don't trust, and the importer must pay down; but at this time of the year money is usually a scarce article among farmers, So I have concluded to give, where it is any object, three months' time, which will put the day of payment after harvest, for the balance due—$16. And agents are authorized to take the three months' notes of those who want time for the balance due, increased by ten per cent., which makes $17.60, due three months after receipt of machine. By my instructions these notes will be receivable by the express company's agent as pay for the balance, and will be collected by him when due.

"We are so far behind in filling orders that orders received this month cannot be filled before June, and orders coming in May and up to June 15th, cannot be filled before July.

"Orders received after June 15th, will be returned, as they cannot be filled this summer.

"State your nearest express office. Address,

A. W. LOCKE, Lock Box 529, Chicago, Ill."

The date is a little significant, but he who invests will find it a costly "April Fool," for of course the whole thing is a barefaced fraud. The matter being given to the police, no A. W. Locke could be found, nor any office where he had been operating. A watch has been kept over his correspondence at the post office, but at last accounts he had not called for his letters, a large number of which have accumulated in lock box 529.

The foregoing explains itself. Such concerns as the Eastern Book Co., which was ventilated in the FARMER some time ago, are quite numerous. Knowing the avidity with which boys generally seize upon any obscene publications, these gentlemen send their circulars forth offering such books for sale. The dupes send on their money and receive in return some little book, perhaps, worth it may be one-tenth of the price, or perhaps nothing at all, and the silly youth can say nothing, for he has violated the law by sending for *obscene* books. We copy from the *American Agriculturist* two or three notices of such institutions, which we judge were inserted in that paper free of charge:

If the American Book Co., Manchester, N. H., and the Central Book Co., Garrettsville, O., are not engaged in a business which should induce the authorities in those towns to shut them up as nuisances, then they should not send out the circulars they do. Strictly speaking, it is just as much a fraud to get money by inducing a person to think that the books offered are bad ones, as in any other way. The circulars of both these concerns are vile in the extreme. In the same category we place the Central Book Co., Ashland, Mass., with its offer of a book to teach the making of "love powders" and all such nonsense.

There is a so-called publishing concern in Springfield, Mass., about which an amount of unpleasant evidence is accumulating.

The same paper says:

The hotel dodge has at last turned up again. We had supposed that had gone off with old "sands of life," but here it is as bright and blooming as ever. Perhaps some of our newer readers do not know this stale old trick. This time it is "Resp'y" E. Callinwater, who keeps a hotel, which it is the Arcade, in New York, of course, and on the "European plan." An unfortunate citizen, A. E. Clements, stopped at said hotel, but in two days he up and died, probably on the "European plan." No wonder he died, for he must have eaten and drank fearfully, as his bill for two days at this Arcadian place amounted to $11.75. Fortunately the defunct left a trunk, which Callinwater opened, and found "a fine gold watch, two silver-mounted revolvers, gold ring, clothing," etc. But more than these—he found a paper addressed to another Clements away down in Georgia. Happy thought for Callinwater! He writes to the Georgia Clements, telling him that the trunk is valuable, and he is the proper person to have it, which he can do by forwarding to Cal. the amount of $11.75, due by the defunct Clem. The Georgia Clem. doesn't bite worth a cent, but writes us to sell the pistols and pay Cal., and send on the "rest of the estate." He desires to express his grief for the loss of his relative, but particularly wants that trunk. We should just like to know what Cal. did with the body of the deceased Clem. Did he dispose of that "on the European plan?" It appears that here is a case for the coroner to look after, as people who leave gold watches and such things around don't generally get buried for nothing in New York. It may be that the new cremation society has got hold of his body and incinerated it as an experiment, and the unfortunate is now only a small handful of ashes.

These are cases where the injury is only pecuniary, but the quack medicine, secret remedy, and similar dodges often not only empty the pocket but ruin the health of the victim. Advertisements headed "Avoid quacks. A victim of early indiscretion," &c., have been so generally circulated that there can be few but have seen them. These precious scoundrels will send a prescription free of charge, on receipt of stamp, as their philanthropic object is only to impart to their fellow man the secret by which they have been cured. Thousands of boys in perfect health send for the prescription, just out of curiosity, and with it comes a long list of "symptoms" carefully prepared so that any boy in the land, if he be at all credulous, will readily recognize himself to be in a dangerous state, according to the circular. Advantage is taken of the prevailing ignorance of physiological science, and symptoms which no boy in good health is without are set down as sure indications of disease, the boy immediately imagines himself in a dangerous condition and thanks Providence that this kind benefactor (the advertiser) has shed light into his darkness. He goes to the apothecary with his prescription and finds that some ingredient is not to be had there. Looking again at the circular he finds that the advertiser has had applications from parties who could not get the prescription compounded at home, and has kindly consented to prepare the remedy for such cases and send it by mail for $3 $5 or $10, as the case may be. Of course this is the actual cost of putting it up, as the generous advertiser, who is probably a "Rev.," does not want to make anything out of the business. We give one more extract, as bearing upon humbugs, this being from the *Springfield Republican* of late date:

Madison & Clarke, of Boston, who pretended to be dry goods dealers, have been caught swindling the public for some time by sending out samples of goods and receiving orders accompanied by money, but never sending any goods. Several hundred letters and a goodly pile of money directed to them have been captured, but the men have "lit out."

The present outlook is certainly against Mead's success, but we speak of the matter at length both because some persons feel so well assured to the contrary and because in this year of our Lord very unlikely things in politics are possible.—*Woodstock Post.*

We should not be surprised if one of these "unlikely things" should prove to be the unseating of the present occupant of the office of congressman from this district and placing a man therein whose sympathies and interests are more in harmony with those of his constituents. Nobody denies the ability of Judge Poland, but there is no earthly ground for believing that Col. Mead *may* not do the people of his district and state better service, and as for his chances of success we reckon that when the matter comes to the test the expressed convictions of the *Post* will be somewhat shaken. The farmers of the district are not asleep this year.

We wish to give the editor of the *Post* credit for a greater degree of candor than the average newspaper editor, and believe that his pen expresses his opinions. He does not call the judge an angel nor the colonel an imp of darkness, but simply expresses his preference for the former, admitting that Mead is "above the average of the human family" in point of ability and fitness for the place, and that he (Perkins) does not "admire Judge Poland in all his points."

We rather mistrust that those persons who "feel so well assured to the contrary" will prove to be about as near correct as the *Post*. The farmers and workers, if they pull together, can carry elections, even in Vermont, and we are inclined to think that they will pull together this year more than they have done in years past. The effect of the Patrons of Husbandry will not be to scatter their forces any, and there are other causes which will work to promote a unity of action among farmers. On the whole, we cannot see wherein Col. Mead's chances are not a little better than any one's else at present.

The Grange organs considerately pass *The Advocate* by in silence. Our charges against the great order * * * * are not worthy of notice—*Farmer's Advocate.*

We think the *Advocate* deserves credit for having discovered the true cause of the silence which seems to be so irritating to it.

Speaking of Judge Poland's prospects in case he runs for congress again (which, by the way, is not yet certain) the *Citizen* says: "He will win and do it easily." A little further on it says: "Prophecy will take well with the unthinking." Probably the sentence first quoted will have due weight with the readers of the *Citizen*.

The same paper tells us that we have done a very silly thing "in appealing for the support of a *class*," meaning the farmers. We print a farmers' paper, and our subscribers are mostly farmers, therefore we suppose we have a right to address our readers, in general, as "farmers." In an article immediately following the paragraph replied to by the *Citizen*, we said: "The farmers of the country * * * propose to come forward and do their part in the selection of public officers and have their share in the control of public affairs, *on an equal footing with other citizens*, and no more," and again, speaking of the possible contingency, sometime, of a break from the regular party lines, we expressed a desire to see "not only the farmers but all industrial classes" represented. As regards prophecy, we are not in that line of business, and have not said any one would or would not win. We have said we *believed* Col. Mead would be the next representative of this district, and we as yet see no reason to change that belief.

The *Maine Farmer*, after looking into the matter somewhat, is tempted to regard the "Imperial Pekin Duck," offered for sale by Geo. P. Anthony, as "very much of a hum—duck."

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Editor of the Vermont Farmer:—

As the time is approaching when the state election is to take place, and the different towns, counties, and districts are getting their candidates ready, a few words in regard to the relation of the individual voter to his party, and of the masses to the rings which rule so much in our politics, may not be out of place.

The time is coming, sooner or later, when "the men who perform the labor of the nation will rule in its councils," when one set or class of men will no longer be expected or allowed to monopolize the governing power, when politicians as a class will be allowed to step down and permit their places to be filled by better men, when the sunburnt farmers and hard-fisted mechanics who to-day make up the masses of the people will be able to assert and maintain the influence and power due their numbers. The time is coming when no ring or clique of half a dozen men in every township can manage the political matters of that town as effectually as the Shah of Persia rules his empire; the time is going by when the masses can be led to the polls and there be made to support the men and measures designated by the ruling ring with the same ease and with the exercise of nearly as little thought on the voter's part as the bull is led by the ring in his nose.

Let us hope that by and by independence of thought and action will be the rule in American politics. It is true that concert of action is necessary, therefore political parties are necessary. Parties are called into existence not for the purpose of giving place to demagogues and professional politicians, or to reward military leaders who may be great in the field but imbecile in the cabinet, but for the promotion of great measures or for the correction of great evils. When the object has been attained which led to party organization, and the party is only held together by the "cohesive power of plunder," it must give way for a new party founded upon new questions and new issues.

Political parties long in power become corrupt, sharp, shrewd, selfish. Designing men naturally gravitate toward the party in power, consequently the party machinery is directed by those having selfish ends in view, the interest of those in power instead of the good of the people being the governing principle. As a matter of course those in power wish and intend to continue that power. They have the inside track and mean to keep it.

As at present managed the people have no voice in the matter except at the primary caucus, and usually but few attend that. Sometimes from six to ten men living in the village will meet, called together in the interests of the candidate of some ring, elect themselves delegates to county, district, or state convention, and in convention nominate the men they are bidden to, while, no matter how corrupt or objectionable the candidate may be, the cry of "support the regular nomination" is expected to rope in every voter.

The party lines are tightly drawn and the party whip smartly cracked about the heads of such as may show any signs of independence or individuality of action, and cries of traitor, renegade, and turncoat, are freely bandied and unsparingly applied. But the signs of the times seem to indicate that the caucus rule is being broken; that the time is at hand when there may be some independence of action among the individuals composing political parties and that men will no longer feel bound to follow the lead of party managers, right or wrong, but will dare to break away without fear of being hounded to their political death.

In the Roman Catholic Church there is no individuality of thought or action allowed; the church claims to be the sure and the only sure guide in matters of religious faith. This infallibility is not to be questioned or doubted. Against this blind belief a large portion of the Christian world has protested, but closely akin to this Romish dogma is the demand of our political parties that, right or wrong, unquestioning adherence must at all times be given to party action.

Hereafter let the farmers of Vermont attend the primary meetings of their respective parties that they may exercise the political influence which belongs to them by virtue of their superior numbers and that they may know that upon election day they are not merely ratifying the action of a few professional politicians who are themselves seeking the loaves and fishes, and if by means of the chicanery and wire pulling so well understood by party managers the wrong men are put in nomination, let the working men remember that they are the slaves of no party, and exercise the privilege of voting as they please, independent of caucus or convention.

J. H. P.

Grafton, Vt., June 27.

The special Washington correspondent of the *Springfield Republican* telegraphed, Friday: It has been discovered that under the lead of Poland of Vermont in the House, and Edmunds of Vermont and Frelinghuysen of New Jersey in the Senate, a harmless-looking bill was quietly passed, which really gives the courts of this district more power in regard to libel in any part of the United States than the notorious section of another bill proposed by Carpenter and Conkling. Under the bill passed, on complaint for libel here, an editor can be arrested anywhere and brought here in arrest.

Over 1000 delegates, including many from the United States, attended the French Canadian convention at Montreal, Saturday, to discuss means and methods of inducing the large number of French Canadians who have emigrated to the United States to return. It was stated that 500,000 of these emigrants are now residing in the United States.

GENERAL NEWS.

Japan prohibits the exportation of rice and wheat after August 1.

Congressman Hale, of Maine, has accepted the postmaster generalship.

Harvesting has already commenced in many parts of California, and the yield of grain is enormous.

Mrs. Sarah E. Landt, a physician of Trenton, N. J., has been found guilty of the death of Mrs. Carson by abortion.

Gen. McCook has received his commission and taken the oath of office as governor of Colorado. He will enter upon his duties early in July.

Quite a number of persons have been killed and a lot of stock run off by hostile Indians near Dodge City, Kansas. A squad of soldiers are out scouting after the offenders.

J. Bowers Underwood, a government defaulter, who was arrested in Cincinnati, Saturday, successfully anticipated trial and conviction by blowing his brains out with a revolver.

The Beecher-Tilton scandal is being aired through the press again, Mr. Tilton having published a letter from Beecher asking his forgiveness. Henry Ward remains as silent as ever on the subject.

The Grand Trunk railroad has given to the Rhode Island locomotive works at Providence the contract to build 50 first-class locomotives for its new narrow-gauge track, the work to be done by September 20. There were 12 bids for the job, and the contract price is $555,000.

Intelligence has been received from the coast of the lower St. Lawrence River that the spring cod fishery is very good with an abundance of bait; also that the salmon fishing is now excellent, although much retarded by the lateness of the season and high waters in the river.

The somewhat singular spectacle was presented at Fort Wayne, Ind., Tuesday evening, of public pool-selling on the nomination of congressman by the democratic convention, Wednesday. Hamilton, the first choice, sold for $3, as did also the field. While the bidding was at its hight, the police appeared and put a stop to the proceedings.

Two masked burglars entered the house of Mr. McCormick, collector of customs at San Diego, Cal., Sunday night, bound and gagged him, procured the combination of the custom-house safe, and then, while one remained on guard over the collector, the other robbed the safe of some $3000. A man named Williams has been arrested on suspicion of being one of the robbers.

The town of Berdicher in Russian Poland, inhabited mostly by Jews, has suffered from one of the most destructive and remarkable series of fires. The first day, 600 houses were destroyed. The next day, there was another conflagration involving a loss of nearly as many more buildings. The two succeeding days, the town was again visited by fires, by which whole streets were laid in ashes and thousands of persons were made homeless.

A New Mexico letter states that the Rio Grange river has overflowed the valley from Albuquerque to El Paso, making great havoc, destroying grain crops, orchards, vineyards, etc. It made a new channel in the rear of the town of Albuquerque, threatening it so badly that its inhabitants fled to the mountains. Several settlements have been destroyed, and thousands having their homes wrecked, starvation is imminent. The damage done is estimated at $2,000,000.

At the instance of Consul General Seward and other foreign consuls, the Chinese government has issued an edict to all growers, manufacturers and exporters of silk commanding that precautions be taken to prevent the deterioration of the silk crop, and forbidding all counterfeiting and adulterating of silk in bales or manufactured for export. This resulted from the representation by several chambers of commerce in the United States that the silk from China, last year, was of an inferior quality, and in many instances adulterated and counterfeited.

It is rumored that the mysterious legislation of the closing hours of the Congressional session discloses even worse action against the press than was charged upon Senator Carpenter's bill. Under the guise of depriving the police court of the district of the power it claimed over the press of the country, Mr. Poland reported a bill at a night session, which passed without debate, that takes this power from the police court and transfers it to the circuit court, and then, in a second section, by making the 33d section of an old act of 1789 apply to courts created by congress in the District of Columbia, makes it possible to begin suit for libel against any editor of newspapers anywhere, arrest him by warrant of the court, justice of the peace or other magistrate, and bring him to the District for trial, all expenses to be paid by the United States. Mr. Edmunds and Mr. Frelinghuysen managed the matter in the senate. It is hard to credit these men and Judge Poland with connivance in a scheme of this kind, but the fact will soon be cleared up. There was certainly a bad animus evinced toward the press in both branches of congress at the last session, which we should be glad to be assured did not get embodied in legislation in any form.—*Boston Journal*

MAINE.

A Dead River man recently caught four bears in four traps set half a mile from each other, within ten days.

Portland is going to have new fair-grounds, with a trotting park, to cost $25,000, and $10,000 has already been subscribed.

The Portland *Press* figures up 15 candidates for the succession to Hale in Congress, and politics will probably be lively in the fifth district soon.

The city government of Portland made a tour over the Portland & Ogdensburg railroad with the directors on Saturday, and at the Notch of the White mountains 280 yards of rock—two tons to the yard—was blown open at one blast, to amuse them.

An important case relating to the liability of telegraph companies for errors in the transmission of dispatches has just been decided by the supreme court at Bangor. Bartlett & Wood, of Bangor, telegraphed to a firm in Chicago by the Western Union line, for 10,000 bushels of corn in the summer of 1870, but the dispatch was made to read 1000, and, before the error could be corrected, corn rose, and the firm lost $900. It was a night message, and the usual agreement that the telegraph company shall not be liable for blunders was signed, but the court decided that such a contract, being "against public policy," is void, and therefore awarded the $900 claimed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Frank Devine, of Portsmouth, killed himself, the other day, by suddenly cooling his head with cold water.

In Manchester, on Saturday, a two-years-old son of George Hamilton was killed by falling from a third story window upon the pavement.

Joseph Callahan, seven years old, son of the late James Callahan, of Boston, was drowned Saturday by falling into the merrimack at Manchester, where his mother lives.

The bears are getting very saucy in New Hampshire. Just after the district school at George Hill in Grafton was dismissed on Wednesday, one of them rushed out of the bushes at the crowd of children. He was driven off, however, and the people are now having a hunt for him.

An attempt was made to wreck the afternoon train on the Ashuelot railroad, near Ashuelot, on Monday, and it was thrown from the track, but nobody was badly hurt.

F. A. Wood, depot master at New Lebanon, was assailed on Friday by two men, who, after their arrest, confessed that they had been hired to do the job by a Mr. Downing, in retaliation for a complaint for selling liquor, brought against him by Mr. Wood.

Two or three barns near Concord were struck by lightning during the storm of Monday night, and several horses and cows were killed. Alfred Ware's house and barn at East Andover were destroyed by lightning; loss $2000; insured for $1200 in the Hartford company. J. P. Lancaster's house at Northwood was badly smashed. The lightning struck in five places at Manchester. A horse worth $300 belonging to George Sullivan, of Goshen, was killed by lightning, and the L of his house was destroyed.

The democrats in New Hampshire are making their recent successes felt and preparing for more in the future (perhaps) by turning every republican out of the appointed offices and substituting democrats. In the legislature discriminations which look to non-partizan eyes like uncalled for persecution are made. Bad as this is, the republican party, as a party, has no right to complain, for they have conducted affairs on the same principles, and we cannot help thinking it is "sauce for the gander," though it makes some republican newspaper organs boil over fearfully.

MASSACHUSETTS.

There is going to be a race in which sticks of timber will be used instead of boats at South Boston, the Fourth.

Henry L. Dawes, having been a member of congress for 18 years, declines a renomination. Geo. F. Hoar also declines a renomination.

Peas have been added to the list of exports from Boston within two or three weeks. Most of them came from Canada, and 60,000 bushels have already gone to Liverpool and Cork.

Joseph S. Sprague, a well-known and highly-esteemed citizen of West Medford, killed his little daughter and himself Sunday. He had become insane through grief at the death of his wife.

Thirty girls employed by the Merrimack corporation at Lowell left the mill on Saturday, because, having been accustomed to leave work at noon on Saturdays, they were ordered to continue till 5 o'clock.

Monday morning Marcus E. Sidrick went to a South End, Boston, boarding house, where his wife, from whom he had separated, was, and stabbed her severely, though perhaps not fatally. He has been arrested.

The wife of Rev. Henry W. Hale has taken the entire course in the Newton theological seminary with him and received the usual degree—the first ever conferred on a woman by that institution. Both are under appointment as missionaries.

A fool named Hugh Donahue completed the task of walking 1000 miles in 1000 hours at Springfield, Saturday morning, and is being lionized. Well, when such a man as James Gordon Bennett sets the example we must expect to see men of smaller intellect follow it.

The Ames plow company has leased the new buildings erected at the north end of Worcester by Stephen Salisbury for ten years, and will occupy them as soon as they are completed, when the company will probably discontinue operations at Ayer Junction, and do all their manufacturing in Worcester.

Eugene Whitney, of Halifax, Vt., who made an aggravated assault on George Jones, an old gentleman of Guilford, Vt., on a road in Leyden, last March, was arrested in New Hampshire, a few days ago, and has been bound over in $200 for trial before the superior court at Greenfield.

CONNECTICUT.

The new county jail at Hartford has been completed at a cost of $157,827.

The society of united bakers had a grand procession at New Haven on Saturday in which was a loaf of bread at least six feet long and a wagon-load of frosted cake, drawn by two goats.

Two workmen in Beattie's quarry in Branford, foolishly tried, the other day, to drill out a heavy charge of powder which had failed to explode, when the friction exploded the charge and one was fatally and the other seriously injured.

Two men called at the house of John B. Bell in Westfield society, Middletown, on Sunday afternoon, and, seizing and binding Mr. Bell and his wife, presented pistols to their heads and obliged them to give up their money. They got but $16.

NEW YORK.

There have been quite a number of cases of hydrophobia of late in New York City.

Tom Wemyss committed suicide at New York Saturday morning, by shooting, after a drunken spree.

The German banking firm of Lassing, Wies & Co., New York City, have disappeared. The creditors and depositors of the firm are mostly trades-people, who will feel their losses most heavily.

A plan to rob the New York savings bank, corner of Eighth avenue and 14th street, was foiled by an almost accidental discovery, Friday night. Next the bank is a billiard and dance hall kept by one Gilmore, from the cellar of which burglars had succeeded in opening a passage through a brick and granite wall to the iron walls of the safe in the bank building adjoining. A boiler had been set up evidently to furnish steam for drills to finish the job on the iron plates. A policeman going by, Friday night, heard the clicking sound made by the drills, divined at once the cause of the sound, and procuring assistance forced an entrance into the basement of the billiard hall, where they found things as described. The burglars, alarmed by the noise of their officers, had escaped, but three of them, John Simpson, Charles Sanborn and William Morgan, were subsequently caught. Gilmore was *non est*, though his vest with his watch and chain was found hanging on a chair in his room.

Experience and Rotation.

There are two principles which ought always to be kept in mind in the election of legislators—experience and rotation in office. However a person may look at it at first blush, consideration must convince him that one element is as important as the other. While there must be experience in every legislative body, there must, also, be constant changes in individual members, an infusion, as it were, of fresh blood right from the people.

Experience is necessary mainly that the forms of legislation may be properly complied with and business transacted with dispatch. It may or may not be true that with each succeeding term of service, a legislator becomes more and more useful; but it is of no consequence, because its practical application would create an aristocracy and a life tenure of office. As a general proposition, however, we do not believe it to be true. We have known members of Congress in reference to whom it was strictly true; because all they know they learned in Congress. So far as their minds were concerned, Congress was a school to them; they were continually learning something new—generally something that the mass of people, school children included, had known long before. Such men, of course, would become more and more useful with the length of service, but they ought not to be in Congress or in any other legislative body. Such men as ought to be sent to Congress or to our state legislature will gain all the experience necessary to make them useful legislators in a single session. It will not do to keep men in Congress for ever. As it is, the majority of Congress will always be men who are serving their second term at least and who, if they can ever acquire experience, are experienced. When we talk about continually re-electing a man on account of his experience, we forget that he will not live forever, but must have a successor some time. We know not how it is, but once send a man to Washington and he holds to it with a death grip. It was not so formerly; it ought not to be so now. And here is where the principle of "rotation in office" comes in. We want, once in a while—say once in four or six years—to infuse new, fresh blood into Congress. We want representatives who have not become over fond of Washington. We want men of the people, fresh from the people and who know the wants of the people. The air of Washington has nothing in it to show the wants of the people of Vermont or of any other section of the country. A life in Washington for the greater part of four or six years cannot have a very powerful tendency to make an individual acquainted with his constituents or their wants. There will always be experience enough there, and, moreover, it is easily gained. Let experience and rotation both be considered.—*Rutland Globe.*

The *Bennington Banner* says: A multitude of damns burst out in Burlington on convention day, after the overwhelming current of Judge Peck's popularity swept everything before it. No lives lost.

A San Francisco correspondent of the *Messenger* says: The great temperance movements during the past year throughout the world have at last taken root in California soil, and the harvest promises to be plentiful. The last legislature of this state passed an act called the "local option" law, which provides that a certain number of voters in any city or town can call for an election on the question of "License" or "no License," and in case a majority of votes be cast for "no License" it shall be unlawful for any license officer to grant a license for traffic in spirituous or malt liquors; and after ten days' notice it shall be a misdemeanor to sell such liquors punishable by a fine ranging from twenty-five to one hundred dollars for each offense, or imprisonment, or both. It is a very fair and just law, and is going to revolutionize the liquor business in the small towns of the state. About thirty elections have taken place. By far the most important election has been held in Oakland ("across the Bay") the second city in size in the state, and the seat of the great free "University of California; a city containing the very cream of California society, and the "Athens of the Pacific." The fight was a hot and bitter one, many of the fairest ladies of Oakland taking an active part. The "No License" party triumphed by 213 majority. Business on the ferry has so increased since that the Central Pacific Railroad will double the trips after the 1st of July.

Markets.

Boston Market.

Reported for the VERMONT FARMER by

A. D. HIBBARD,

Produce Commission Merchant, 21 John Street, Boston

THURSDAY, July 2.

Butter and Cheese.—The proportion of really choice butter is small and prices are well sustained, but for medium grades there is an easier tendency, and the stock is accumulating. New York and Vermont choice dairies command 27 to 29c per lb, and sometimes an extra fine lot will go a shade higher; but after passing the best grades there is a drop of 2 to 3c per lb, with offerings at 23 to 25c per lb. Western is in liberal supply this week, and though a few fancy creameries have been sold at 26c, we cannot quote straight lots over 25c, and 22 to 24c per lb cover the bulk of the sales. A very fair article of Western butter can be laid down here from New York at 20 to 23c per lb, and shippers to our market must not expect to realize much over 24c, unless their butter is fully up in color, flavor, and condition to choice Northern.

The market is largely stocked with good Ohio cheese, and prices are ¼c per lb lower. The finest Vermont factory cannot be sold over 14c, and almost equally as good an article of Ohio is selling freely at 13½c, while medium ranges from 12 to 13c per lb.

Flour and Grain.—There is an improvement in the flour trade. Low grades continue in demand for the Eastern trade and for the Provinces, and for high grades the market has settled down to a point that buyers operate with more confidence. Choice fancy Minnesota still go up to $10 to 10.50 per bbl, and even higher for a few favorite brands, but these are extreme prices. For St. Louis white wheat $9 per bbl is about an outside figure, and for good Michigan brands 7.50 per bbl is an outside rate, with a few exceptions. The sales have been at $8 to 10.50 for fancy Minnesota brands; 7 to 9.50 for St. Louis white wheat, including medium and choice; 6.75 to 8.50 for Illinois; and 6.50 to 7.50 for Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, with a few favorite brands as high as 7.75 to 8 per bbl. In Southern flour very little change. We quote common extras and choice family at $6 to 9.50 per bbl. Bakers' extras have been in fair demand at 6.25 to 6.75 for Wisconsin, and 6.75 to 7.50 per bbl for Minnesota. In common Western extras the sales have been at $6 to 6.25; and Western supers at $5 to 5.25 per bbl.

The market for corn has been firm since our last, with light receipts. The sales have been at 82½ to 84c per bu for mixed, and 85½ to 86½c per bu for yellow, as to quality. Rejected corn ranges from 55 to 80c per bu. There is more inquiry for export, and corn at East Boston, with the reduced elevator charges, meets with a ready sale, at about 1c per bu advance on these rates. Oats are firm, with a good demand for all grades. The sales have ranged from 62 to 69c per bu, as to quality. In Rye small sales sales $1.20 per bu. Shorts have been selling at $19 to 20; fine feed 21 to 22; and middlings 23 to 24 per ton.

Groceries.—Coffee. There is a very firm feeling for coffee and prices have taken a decided upward turn. The trade have been purchasing in small lots and are cautious about stocking up to any extent. Java 23 to 26c; Porto Rico 19½ to 21c; Rio 18½ to 20½c per lb, all gold.

Fruit. The market for Malaga raisins continues quiet but prices are steady. The sales have been at $3.65 for layers and 3.55 3.75 per box for loose Muscatel. In Sultana raisins small sales at 15c per lb. Smyrna figs continue to be taken in small lots at 14 to 17c per lb, as to quality. Citron at 27½c per lb for English and Leghorn; and currants at 6¾c per lb. Lemons are selling at $8 to 10 per box.

Molasses. Low grades of distilling molasses are scarce and stocks in the hands of distillers are small. Demerara 40 to 48c per gal. In sugar house syrup there has been considerable activity, and prices have advanced 2 to 3c per gal. Sales at 30 to 33c.

Sugar. There is a firm feeling for raw sugars, but no particular activity. The sales comprise common to good refining at 7 9-16 to 8c; good refining at 8¼c; No. 7 to 11 at 8c per lb. For refined sugars there is a fair demand at 10½ to 10¾c for granulated; 8¾ to 9½c for the different grades of coffee crushed; and 10¾c per lb for powdered.

Other Produce.—Beans. Mediums continue dull, and $2 per bushel is the highest we can quote for choice, with sales of several car loads at that price. Buyers are holding off as much as possible, expecting lower figures, but prices are fully sustained. We quote: Pea, choice Northern H. P., per bu, $2.40 to 2.02; do Western 2.37 to 2.50; do common 2.20 to 2.25; medium, choice 2 to 2.10; do common to good 1.50 to 1.75; yellow eyes 3.50 to 3.70; red kidney 3.75 to 4; marrow 2.50 to 2