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CURRENT COMMENT

During the Past Week of Men and things—Man Burned at the Stake in Colorado — Notes.

Preston Porter, the Negro rapist, paid an awful penalty for the horrible crime he committed on the innocent little 10-year-old girl, when he was burned at the stake by an angry mob in Lincoln county, Colo., one day last week. It seems to us that no punishment too severe could have been inflicted on a man guilty of a crime as heinous as that which Porter himself confessed to have committed on an innocent little girl, for rape in itself is enough to tempt any parent to inflict death on a monster who had so mistreated a daughter, but when rape is combined with murder, it becomes almost impossible for any parent to restrain himself from wreaking any kind of vengeance on so guilty a wretch. However, it seems to us that the men who participated in the burning of Porter at the stake, commited a worse crime against the peace and civilization of the community and state in which they live than even that committed by Porter.

It matters not how heinous is the crime committed by man, the laws of our land should be sufficient to punish such evil doers, and, if the laws are not sufficient as they now stand there should be laws enacted that will reach any crime however enormous it is.

The governor of the state of Colorado, the sheriff of Lincoln county and all of the citizens who participated in that awful tragedy of burning a man at the stake, are guilty of crime that should be punished by the strong arm of the law of the United States. Porter was guilty, confessed it, and deserved death in the most excrutiating form, but it should have been done by the law, after a fair and impartial trial had been given him.

It is rather remarkable that no state in the United States has ever as yet burned a man at the stake unless such state was overwhelmingly Democratic. No state in the North ever before so far forgot the civilized code of its country as to relapse into barbarism sufficiently to permit it to burn a human being at the stake, with the bare exception of Colorado, which was done within the past week. That both Gov. Thomas and the sheriff of Lincoln county are guilty of murder is shown from the very fact that they said ere Porter was taken back to Lincoln county he would be lynched by the angry citizens of that community if taken back, but in spite of that he was taken back, and on last Thursday he was chained to an iron post and burned, the pyre having been lighted and applied by the father of the daughter he so cruelly murdered.

The citizens of Denver, Colo., met at the Y. M. C. A. hall last Sunday in large numbers and denounced in scathing terms the lynching in Lincoln county, proclaiming it to be a blot upon the face of the state, and such a blot as should not go unpunished by the officials of the state. Gov. Thomas spoke at this meeting, and declared that his hands were not guilty of the blood-stained act, and that it rested wholly with the county officials in whose charge and safekeeping the Negro had been entrusted. The resolutions passed by the enraged citizens of Denver, verged almost into riotousness themselves, and it appears that had the sheriff of Lincoln county made his appearance at that time the audience would have torn him to pieces with equal vengeance as did he encourage the mob to destroy Porter. Resolutions were passed denouncing the burning by all the colored churches in Chicago, Ill., and a gigantic petition was signed by both white and black citizens of that state, praying that the president of the United States suggest some law or remedy in his forthcoming annual message whereby perpetrators of such crimes may be punished regardless of the state laws in which they lived.

HILL'S NORTHERN PACIFIC.

Current reports have it that James J. Hill, the great railroad magnate of this country, has gained control of the Northern Pacific system and will operate the same in connection with the Great Northern. If this be true, there will be a great revolution in railroad affairs of the Pacific Northwest, and many changes may be expected.

Having learned that Hill had probably gained control of the road a number of Seattle's leading citizens at once conceived the idea that it meant nothing more or less than the overthrow of their rival city, Tacoma, and that most of the works of the Northern Pacific would be centered in Seattle instead of Tacoma. If Mr. Hill has control of the Northern Pacific, it should not be lost sight of that he also has control of vast properties both in Tacoma and Portland, and that it will be his utmost care to see that these properties are properly looked after and nurtured into double their present value. For that reason he will hardly do anything, regardless of his pretended love for Seattle, that will injure either of these cities. But if Mr. Hill has control of the Northern Pacific, as he has of the Great Northern, it will give him a clean and clear swing from Port Townsend to Portland and the entire water front of Puget Sound will be monopolized by this great railroad magnate.

WASHINGTON'S EARLY SNOW.

One of the worst snow storms that has ever prevailed in the Northwest in early November set in last Saturday night and raged all Sunday and Monday. Old settlers claim that nothing of the kind has ever before since they have been in this country prevailed as early as the present blizzard.

The storm raged not only in Washington, but all over the Northwest, and an immense amount of damage was done in Montana, Idaho and Eastern Washington, where the wind blew at a terrific rate and an immense amount of snow fell. In Montana the mercury was down to zero, and in Eeastern Washington and Idaho it was nearly as bad. The weather, however, moderated early in the week, and Washington has assumed its usual moderate climate.

A BUSINESS SESSION.

According to Senator Aldrich, the closing term of the 56th congress is to be a business session. By this he means that it is to rush matters of an important nature through without tolerating any objections or obstructions on the part of the Democratic party. In some instances it is thought that the Democratic party will approve of many measures, and those measures will be put through practically without opposition. Chief among those that will be urged will be the repeal of the war revenue tax, as the money accumulating from that is now so voluminous as to become a load on the treasury officials. Another measure that will be dealt with at once will be the apportionment for the 58th congress from the various states. According to the census reports some of the states will be entitled to at least one more congressman, while others will lose at least one.

In this, however, there will be a bitter partisan fight, as the Republicans of the North are inclined to base the apportionment for the Southern states on the number of votes cast, rather than the number of persons that are counted by the census in those states. For an instance, it takes 50,0000 votes to elect a congressman in Washington, while it takes but 5,000 in Mississippi, and yet Mississippi is far more populous than is Washington. This is accounted for from the fact that at least 100,000 voters in Mississippi have been disfranchised, and yet are counted by the census enumerators, and yet men who disfranchised them are clamoring for extra recognition in congress on account of those very numbers. The Republican side of congress is not disposed to grant any such favor and is inclined to cut down the number of representatives from the South instead of increasing them. This will bring on a bitter partisan fight, which will not be settled before the 57th congress is in session.

OUR TWELFTH CENSUS.

Uncle Sam's twelfth census of the population of the United States is causing quite a bit of comment in the various newspapers and magazines of this country, and the following from the Outlook is very appropriate:

"The aggregate population of the United States as fixed by the new census is 76,295,220, as against 63,069,756 ten years ago. The gain is something over 13,000,000, or nearly 21 per cent. There are many interesting developments in the relative growth of states and sections. Thus, New York state still remains much the largest in population, having gained the full 21 per cent. of increase, rising in ten years from 5,997,853 to 7,268,009. Of this gain 75 per cent. is to be credited to New York city alone, while it is worth noting that the present city of New York now contains almost exactly one-twenty-fifth of the total population of the entire country, and has as many people as the four states of California, Colorado, Connecticut and Florida combined; while its populous and prosperous neighbor, the state of New Jersey, has little more than half as many people as the metropolis. Without going into exact figures, it may be added that Pennsylvania and Illinois show rapid growth in population; Ohio has not gained nearly as fast as the two states just mentioned, while Texas, on the other hand, has made enormous gains in population, and has taken Massachusetts' place as sixth in population in the country, the order being New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Texas, Massachusetts. Kansas has lost three places in the list of rank of population; Colorado and Washington have grown faster than Maine, while Florida, Washington and Oregon have grown faster proportionately than Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire; Wyoming and Nevada still have less than 100,000 people each, and Nevada is the only state in the country to show an actual decrease in population. Extremely important questions relating to the reapportionment of representatives in congress will grow out of this new census. If congress fixes the ratio of apportionment as one congressman for each 200,000 of pouplation, as it will very likely do (instead of one member for each 173,901 of the population as at present), the house will consist of 377 members, and the presidential electoral college of 467 members. It seems to be considered probable that this source will be pursued. If it is, Kansas, Nebraska, Maine and Virginia would lose relatively in their representation, while six states (Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas) would gain two members each, and twelve states one member each. Politically speaking, and basing the conclusion on past elections, this would appear to be favorable in some degree to the Republican strength."

THIS YEAR'S WARS.

The year 1900 is rapidly drawing to a close, and it will go down in history as a great year for wars and national embroglios. England's war with the Boers, Uncle Sam's war with the Philippines and the revolution in Colombia, South America, are the most important.

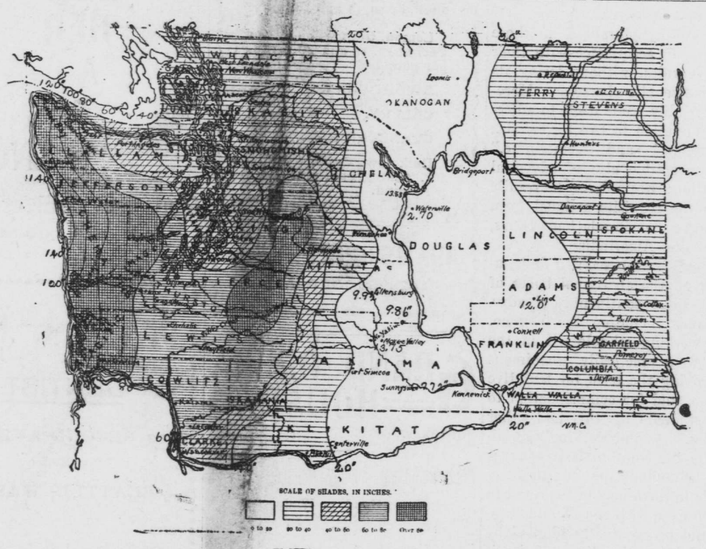
The following from an exchange throws some light on the South American war, which few citizens of the United States seem to know much about:

News from the South American republics is slow in reaching the United States, and as it often comes alternately from the two opposing political sides, it is not only slow, but untrustworthy. That a revolution has been going on in Colombia has been known, but the first fully intelligible account of the situation we have seen is that given by the United States minister to Colombia upon his arrival in New York last week. Most readers will be astonished to find that the loss in killed and wounded of the present revolution is estimated to aggregate 30,000. This is not far from the number of killed and wounded generally estimated as the loss of the Filipinos in the conflict with this country, and it is very much larger than the loss on either side in the recent war between the United States and Spain. That such a war on our own side of the Atlantic should have attracted little attention is surprising; the cause is probably in the fact that no great questions of principle are involved in this revolution, which, like most revolutions in South America, springs out of the clash of personal ambition and the lack of knowledge of what representative government should be. At present the revolutionists in Colombia, although they have gained some important battles, are strategically overmatched by the forces of the government, and Mr. Hart, our minister, thinks that the insurrection will soon be put down. Its leader rejoices in the poetical name of Rafael Uribe Uribe. But, apart from the insurrection, another political crisis exists in Colombia which may readily take the form of a second revolution, if it is not already of that character. The president is Senor Sanclemente; the vice president Senor Marroquin. The president is somewhat old and infirm, and has been living at Bogota to recuperate. The vice president promptly took advantage of the situation, assumed all the powers of the presidency, and gained possession of the government buildings. The Marroquin government has been recognized by foreign state departments as the government de facto, the papal see alone declining to do this. Both presidents, by some financial and political arrangement impossible to understand here, are receiving full presidential salaries.

Dr. Samuel Burdette, King county's wreckmaster-elect, has incorporated an insurance company which charges an initiation fee of $5. Dr. Burdette has organized companies before in this city, and many of the citizens, both here and elsewhere, have some slight remembrance of those companies.

Desk room for rent at the office of The Seattle Republican, 714 Third avenue; steam heat, ground floor and down town. Next door to the Seattle theater. Call at this office for further particulars.

Washington's Climatic Observations



Map of the state of Washington, showing different counties, Straits of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound and Columbia river—the latter forming two-thirds of the southern border between the state and Oregon. The Cascade mountains divide the state, running north and south and along the eastern borders of Lewis, Pierce, King and Whatcom counties. The markings show the average amount of rainfall for the different and irregular sections—the first, or white, less than twenty inches annually; single bars, 20 to 40 inches; diamond checks, 40 to 60; fine single bars, 60 to 80; small squares, 80 inches or more. The Olympic mountains occupy the major portion of Jefferson and Clallam counties, extending south into Mason and Chehalis counties. By noting the figures along the Straits of Fuca—120, 100, 80, 60, 40—the great rainfall on the immediate coast will be observed, and the constant rapid decrease as the storms advance eastward over the Olympic mountains.

THE CLIMATE OF WASHINGTON.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 20, 1900.

The Pacific coast states are possessed of a climate peculiar to the coast, and little understood by people of the East as a rule. Both Oregon and Washington may be said to each have two different climates, varying greatly, produced by different causes herein discussed. It is with the climate of the state of Washington, however, with which this article will deal, the data being compiled from government statistics and local observations, being a synopsis of an exhaustive article on the subject written by Prof. W. N. Allen, of Washington state.

Truly, a state wherein may be found almost every phase of genial climes—the salubrity of England, tempered by the Japanese current, oceanward, and by eternal snow-capped mountains, landward, with no few and wonderful glaciers lurking at their base; summer sunshine, mingled with warm rains in so-called winter months, points where zero weather never comes, where health conditions are always favorable, and midst scenery unequalled elsewhere in America, Washington—so little understood and so much misunderstood—is entitled to general study and better acquaintance. Of its wonderful scenery more anon. Its climate is of primal importance.

A well-known United States weather bureau official, H. F. Alciatore, has well said: "For equability and mildness of climate, absence of either very hot or very cold waves, and freedom from destructive tornadoes or cyclones Washington stands foremost among the favored states of the American Union."

The climate of Washington is much more equable than that of other states situated in corresponding latitudes. The daily and seasonal range of temperature which so greatly affects climate everywhere is not great in this state. The mean temperature for the month of January, which is usually the coldest month in the year, is 35.2 degrees. This is the average of the mean January temperature for ten years, taken at stations distributed throughout the entire state. A similar average for July, usually the hottest month, gives 64.6 degrees. These averages cannot be far from the true or normal temperature for January and July. The difference between these is 29.4 degrees, the seasonal range. A comparison of the difference between the winter and summer temperature in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Wisconsin or Michigan, all of which lie in the same latitude as Washington, with the seasonal change in this state will show that it is comparatively low. To this fact may be attributed the entire absence of sudden changes or violent disturbances of the atmosphere within the state. The average of these two extremes, the temperature of January and July, gives a little less than 50 degrees for the mean annual temperature of the state. This is, however, about one degree above the true or normal temperature.

The daily range, or the difference between the daily maximum and minimum temperatures, is likewise comparatively low throughout the year. The climate of Washington is free from extreme variations of heat or cold. The highest temperature of the summer months gradually lowers to the lowest of the winter months. The change is almost imperceptible, especially west of the Cascade mountains, where the flowers bloom and the grass is green all the year.

This equability of climate or this range in the daily and seasonal change of temperature is due chiefly to the influence of the ocean, the direction of the prevailing winds, and the relative position and direction of the mountain ranges.

The Cascade mountains divide the state into two sections, which differ as much in climatic conditions as in topographical aspects.

The mean annual temperature of the whole of the Columbia river basin (Eastern Washington), deduced from official reports from fourteen stations well distributed over the basin, is 42.25 degrees. The station has a mean annual temperature of 54.7 degrees, the highest in the state. The mean for July is 76.3 degrees; that for January 34.3 degrees, over 2 degrees above freezing point. The Chinook wind, which is a pretty Indian name given to the warm, moist winds from the Pacific ocean, cross the ocean freighted with the delightful odors of tropical climes. They enter the state near the mouth of the Columbia river and follow the course of the valley its entire length, even to Idaho, Montana, and sometimes as far east as the Dakotas. They are always welcomed. With them comes spring, warm sunshine, beautiful flowers and pleasant weather. In summer these winds from the ocean are cooler than the surface of the valley, hence they have a refreshing influence upon all forms of life. They are, in fact, that part of the general atmospheric circulation known as the prevailing westerlies. They are the rain-bearers of Washington. In fact all winds from the southern points of the compass are likely to cause rain.

The annual rainfall in Eastern Washington is 14.66 inches. This is the average of sixteen stations well distributed throughout the basin. As compared with the average rainfall in the state it is much less than one-half. The rainfall at Walla Walla is 17.43 inches.

One of the most interesting features of the rainfall of a country is the time in which it occurs. The annual rainfall may be sufficiently great to supply all the requirements of agriculture, yet the distribution in time be such as to render agriculture impossible. It is well known that little rain at the right time is of greater service than much rain at other times. The rainfall in Eastern Washington is well distributed in this respect. An inspection of the monthly reports shows that July and August are the dryest months, and that there is a gradual increase from September to January, when precipitation is greatest. From January to July there is a gradual decrease. This might seem to be the reverse of what should be for agricultural purposes. It would be in corn-growing regions, or places where crops grow in summer and mature in autumn. The Columbia river basin is a district best suited to the growth of small grain and grasses. This is due to the peculiarity of its soil and climate. Grain is sown in the autumn, about the time the rains begin. It remains in the ground during the period of greatest precipitation, which is usually in the form of snow; matures and ripens with the decreasing rainfall of spring and early summer, and is harvested and threshed during the dryest part of the year. This kind of distribution of rainfall is certainly of great value to the agriculturalist. It does not necessitate the storing of grain or hay, either before or after it has been threshed. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain may be seen sacked in the harvest fields during the summer months, or waiting at the railway stations for shipment, with nothing over it save the clear blue sky.

There is another fact which should not be omitted in the consideration of the climate of this district, and that is the character of its soil. Much depends upon it both from a climatic and agricultural standpoint. If it be loose, sandy and porous, the solar heat and rain penetrate it to a great depth, and are retained longer than if it were compact, cleyey and hard. The soil in the agricultural sections of the Columbia river basin is mostly of a loose, volcanic ash, which receives a large quantity of heat and moisture readily, and retains them for a comparatively long time.

Eastern Washington is a land of sunny rather than of cloudy weather. The state for the year 1898 averaged 138 clear, 114 partially cloudy and 113 cloudy days. The greatest number of clear days was 206, at Ellensburg. The greatest number of rainy days was 33, at Sunnyside. The least number of cloudy days was 18, at Fort Simcoe. The maximum clear sky prevailed in the Yakima valley, the real sunny side of Washington. This valley ranges in elevation from 330 feet at Kennewick to 1,700 feet near Ellensburg. The prevailing winds are from the mountains. They are dry, salubrious, rarely high, although the valley proper is treeless.

The snowfall in Eastern Washington averaged 30 inches for the year 1898. This is somewhat less than the true or normal. It fell mostly during the months of November and December. This afforded the winter wheat, meadows and pastures good protection during the coldest part of the year.

Western Washington.

This section is noted for the mildness and equability of its climate. The temperature of the air over the ocean between the parallels of 45 and 50 degrees north remains sensibly the same through the year. The prevailing winds, both in winter and summer, are from the ocean, from off the Japan current, which flows southward just off the coast. These winds are comparatively warm during the winter and retard the lowering of the mercury. During the summer they have the opposite effect. They are comparatively cool and prevent very high temperature. Besides the close proximity to the ocean proper, there are at least 2,000 square miles of water surface within the confines of this part of the state. This great arm of the ocean, commonly known as Puget Sound, stretches far to the south, and extends numerous projections inland in almost every direction. Twice a day the ebb and flow of the tide, the coming and going of the water from and to the sea, cause an interchange of air from sea to land, and from land to sea again. All of these influences tend to equalize the temperature and maintain the equilibrium.

The second great influence in the climate of Western Washington is the relative direction of the mountains to the course of the prevailing winds. The Cascade range extends north and south and forms the eastern border. This range is sufficiently high to intercept the cold Walla Walla or east winds which, as a result, move down the Columbia river basin. The Olympic range from the mouth of the Columbia river to the Straits of Juan de Fuca, forms the western border.

The variation of heat or the rising and falling of the mercury in the thermometer is not as great west as east of the Cascade mountains. The seasonal range or the difference between the January and July mean temperature is only 22.85 degrees west of the mountains. On the east side the difference is 41.3 degrees, or nearly twice as much. The mean annual temperature in Western Washington is 50.37 degrees. This a fraction over two degrees higher than in Eastern Washington. The mean temperature for January, the coldest part of the year, is 38.85 degrees. This is 6.85 degrees above freezing point. This means that Jack Frost does not visit the Sound country often, that the streams are not obstructed by him and are open for navigation during the winter. The grass is greeen and flowers bloom the year around out of doors.

The mean temperature for July, the hottest month, is 61.7 degrees. This is 7.6 degrees less than the mean temperature for the same month east of the mountains.

Western Washington borders upon the largest of oceans, and has an interior water surface of over 2,000 square miles. Its low mountains are upon the west and windward side. The Cascades form the eastern boundary. A large per cent. of the "lows" enter the United States from the west and pass eastward through Washington. Such are the general climatic conditions of this section. They are conducive to much rainfall. The quantity, however, is not uniform as to distribution. It varies according to local conditions.

The average annaul rainfall of the Pacific slope (along the immediate coast) is 91.75 inches, the greatest average of any district within the United States, if not in all North America. The area of the slope is comparatively small, however, containing only about 6 per cent. of the total area of the state.

At Clearwater, a station near the coast and about midway between Grays Harbor and Cape Flattery, occurs the greatest annual rainfall in the state, 132.09 inches. This means an average of about eleven feet yearly or about eleven inches per month. The chief reason for this great rainfall at Clearwater is found in the fact that immediately back of Clearwater is the highest and most compact portion of the Olympic range. The slope is abrupt. The difference between the temperature of sea-level and the summits of the mountains is great. The moist winds from the ocean move landward. They strike the snow-covered mountains, which cause condensation and precipitation in great profusion.

The two stations of Clearwater and Port Townsend are not far apart, yet the difference in the annual fall amounts to 110.40 inches, or over nine feet. Clearwater is on the rainy side, while Port Townsend is on the sheltered side of the Olympic mountains. From Clearwater northward there is a decrease in the rainfall, also in the altitude of the mountains back of the stations. At Lapush the fall is 85.79 inches. Much of the moisture passes over toward the northeast before falling as rain.

There is a gradual decrease in the fall of rain from Cape Flattery eastward along the south shore of the Straits of Juan de Fuca to Port Townsend. At Neah bay, just inside the cape, the fall is 109.37 inches. At Pysht it is 68.28 inches. Further east, at Port Angeles, it is 29.64 inches, while at Port Townsend, the eastern extremity of the strait upon the south side, it is only 21.69 inches. This means a decrease of 87.68 inches in about as many miles.

A comparison between the rainfall at Port Townsend with that at stations east or northeast, such as Blaine, New Whatcom, Sedro and Snohomish shows a decided increase. The average of the above named places is 43.18 inches, or nearly twice as much as at Port Townsend.

The Puget Sound basin lies between the Olympic and Cascade ranges. This section is much larger than the narrow belt along the Pacific coast. It extends north and south through the entire width of the state and far up the mountain slopes upon either side. In the north central part of this basin is situated Puget Sound and most of the large cities of Western Washington.

The mean annual rainfall, taken at ten stations in this district, is 47.95 inches. These stations are quite equally distributed from Blaine, near the northern line, to La Center, in Clarke county on the southern border. In elevation they range from 15 to 300 feet above sea level. The length of their records extends from one to twenty years. The average, then, cannot be far from the true normal.

Chehalis has a rainfall of only 48.43 inches, while Ashford, some distance northeast, has an average of 71.74 inches. Ashford has an altitude of 1,775 feet and is situated on the western slope of the Cascade

(Continued on page 2)

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

Touching on Science, Industry and Mechanical Improvements--Scientific American Roasted

A pipe line built to carry Caspian petroleum to the sea is 142 miles long. Heretofore the petroleum has been carried to its destination by trains, which has proved rather too expensive. Hence the new pipe line.

Soda water fountains, an American institution, are slowly but surely being introduced into English drug stores. During the past summer a chemist shop in Birmingham sold as nigh as 1,000 drinks a day. The physicians of that city made strenuous objections to the use of the icy drinks; nevertheless they were continued to be sold.

The annual report at the convention of the progress of the United States National Museum for the year ending June 30, 1898, was very encouraging to the promoters of the institution. There were 450,000 different specimens brought in during the fiscal year. The total number of specimens up to July 1, 1898, exceeded 4,000,000,000. Since 1881 3,972,987 persons have visited the museum.

Coffee-growing in tropical Africa, which is a recent innovation in that country, has developed into a most lucrative as well as profitable business. Though only five years ago since the first seeds were taken there, 100 tons were sent out by the dealers during the past season. The coffee produced there is said to be a superior quality, even surpassing the famous Mocha. The demand for it at present is much greater than the supply.

Each year the Russian minister of finance fixes the amount of sugar which shall be produced in the empire and the price at which it is to be sold. The average domestic consumption is about 1,000,000,000 pounds, and that is the legal amount allowed upon the market by the government. In addition to that amount 180,000,000 pounds are produced and put in storage in case of accidents. An excise tax of 2 1-2 cents per pound is charged by the government on the annual allowance. If this does not supply the market, the reserve is let out without tax, and if the reserve does not supply the market, then the government buys the necessary amount from foreign governments, and this is also let out to the people without an excise tax. The government of Russia has twice made outside purchases within the past ten years.

Up to December 31, 1899, there were 190,833 miles of railroad completed in the United States. Of that 186,590 miles are reported as traffic-earning. Upon this trackage were carried about 538,000,000 passengers and 978,000,000 tons of freight. The total traffic revenue was $1,336,000,000; the operating expenses were $888,000,000, leaving the net earnings $448,000,000, which with $66,000,000 other receipts brings the total revenue to $513,879,443. There are 37,245 locomotives, 34,000 passenger and baggage cars and 1,328,000 freight cars.

"A telegraph line has been completed between Seattle, Washington, and Skagway, Alaska."—Scientific American, issue Nov. 3, 1900.

If the above statement is a sample of the American's accuracy in its reports of all scientific matters, then it is a complete imposition on the people of this country, who absolutely depend upon it for correct scientific reports and information. There is no telegraph line between Seattle, Washington, and Skagway, Alaska, and none even in construction, and as near to a telegraph line between the two points mentioned as is an actual fact is a favorable recommendation that the United States government lay a cable line between Seattle and Skagway at an early date by a recent army officer, which report, it is thought by many, will be favorably acted upon by the Washington City authorities. In the future the Scientific American should know that the news it publishes is unquestionably true in every detail, for it is yellow journalism to jump at conclusions as absolute facts, and a weekly journal like the Scietific American should be the very last kind of a paper to give out such conclusions as facts.