

SEMI-WEEKLY MINER.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1882.

Small pox exists at sixty-two points in Illinois, and spreading.

A destructive fire occurred at Los Angeles yesterday. Loss, \$100,000.

Adverse criticisms of Sargent are said to be having their effect on the President.

The sulphur mines at Schmolitz, Hungary, are on fire, and a loss of many millions of florins will probably be the result.

The Iowa legislature met on the 10th inst. James F. Wilson was nominated by the Republicans as Senator for the long term, beginning March 4, 1882, and J. W. McDill for the short term, ending in 1885.

President Arthur prefers young men for postmasters and old men for his cabinet advisers. Secretary Folger is sixty-three years of age. Secretary Frelinghuysen is sixty-four and Attorney General Brewster is sixty-five.

The Atchison Champion says that frequent attempts have been made to put pennies in circulation in that and other cities in Kansas, but they have always resulted in failure. Western people will not be "bothered with them."

The Supreme Court of the United States decided that in an Utah case where two mortgages had been given on the same property, that the one recorded first, although it was executed last, had priority over the one first executed.

There are over 2,000 applicants at Washington for postmasterships, but only three hundred vacant positions in the country. If all accounts are true there should be another vacancy soon in a certain prominent office on the East side.

It is stated that, as a result of the investigation of the Canada Pacific Railway company into the various routes through the Rocky mountains, that the way by Yellowstone pass will be abandoned, and probably Bonheur pass will be adopted in its stead.

The United States has absorbed over 420,000 of the surplus population of Europe within the past eleven months, and still there appears to be no diminution of foreign immigration. There is room for several millions of home seekers in this Territory alone.

Senate bills to restrict Chinese immigration have been referred to a special committee consisting of Miller, Edmunds, Pendleton and Hill. This ought to secure speedy and favorable action on these bills—two Democrats and one Pacific Coast anti-Chinese Republican.

General William Curtis lectured on Civil Service Reform at Buffalo recently, and in the course of his address welcomed Arthur into the ranks of the "Reformers." The President has a lively appreciation of the beauties of Civil Service Reform. He was once Collector of the Port of New York.

The Louisville Courier-Journal's views on the South American policy are that "by a proper tariff policy we can secure the entire trade of South America. We do not want war with any people of that continent. We want their trade. We will not get it by meddling in their quarrels. We can get by friendship and the exchange of products."

Captain Eads rises to explain that the bill for his inter-oceanic railway does not provide for a guaranty of \$100,000,000 of bonds. It forbids the issue of any bonds whatever upon the road. It provides for a guaranty of six per cent. dividends for fifteen years on the capital stock of the company, which capital is fixed at \$75,000,000.

A Washington dispatch of the 10th says: The strongest lobby on hand so far this winter is that in favor of the Tehuantepec railroad scheme. Chief Engineer Captain Eads is here himself. Already the prime movers in the matter have spiked some of the biggest guns of the opposition, and a number of Congressmen who were active in favor of the Nicaragua canal last winter are now strong Tehuantepec men. The bill has not been introduced yet, nor will it be till everything is fixed for prompt action.

The Chicago Tribune says that "President Arthur intends to notify the country by his Cabinet appointments that no Garfield men need apply. Perhaps the frequent iteration of the idea on the part of leading newspapers has enabled the President to happily disappoint the prophets, for thus far it must be confessed, he has not done any of the bad things foretold. His appointments are all fairly good." Haven't we heard something about one of the proprietors or editors of the Tribune being recently appointed by the President to a lucrative position? or was it a dream?

A THREATENED DANGER.

The rather astonishing news, contained in the New York letter which we published in our issue of yesterday morning, has created no little sensation in this city. It is considered surprising that the U. P. company would for a moment, entertain a proposition from the N. P. company of the character named. It would seem that if the U. P. people were thoroughly acquainted with the immense resources of the magnificent country through which the several branches of the Utah and Northern are surveyed, they would reject it without a moment's hesitation. It is probably not exactly within the province of a Montana journal to attempt to enlighten a large railroad corporation in regard to a matter about which it is supposed to be well informed, but the mere fact that the proposition referred to in the New York letter is held under advisement by the U. P. Company, suggests the possibility of its acceptance and explains our interest in the matter. In recognizing that danger it is not necessary to deny that the people of Montana and particularly those of Butte have a direct interest in the decision of the latter company for if the combination be formed the Northern Pacific will not be built by Butte, neither will the Utah and Northern be extended to Helena. It is to the interest of the people at each place that both roads should be built to them. We also hold that it is to the interest of the owners of the Utah and Northern that they should not only build their road to Helena but should continue it on to Benton and northward to the British line, and thus secure the trade of that as yet but partially developed empire of wealth.

The lack of time and space forbid an extended notice of the vast resources which slumber upon either side of the proposed line of the Utah and Northern to different portions of the country, and which only await the presence of the locomotive to arouse them into life. The great network of mines in the Elk-horn and Boulder districts; the bullion producing lodes in the vicinity of the Comet, Wickes, Gregory and Clancy mines, covering an area larger than the State of Connecticut, would all be tributary to the road and would keep it employed for an indefinite period of time. On the east side of the Missouri, and within the reach of its influence, is the great Barker mining district, which is almost weekly giving birth to magnificent bonanzas which in the near future will furnish employment for thousands of men and require the transportation of immense amounts of machinery. Coming nearer Helena are the Silver Creek and Ten Mile districts, which will add annually hundreds of tons to the freight traffic of the road. The Utah and Northern can command and enjoy the passenger and freight traffic of the points named for a year or two before the Northern Pacific can reach them and after it arrives can still control a fair share of the transportation. On the West side it has a larger and richer field. The great forests on the Bitter Root and Missoula rivers are veritable bonanzas awaiting the advent of the narrow gauge to gather their wealth. The lumber traffic from these sections alone will, as soon as the road reaches them, assume immense proportions. Within three years Butte will have a population of at least 20,000 souls. Millions of feet of lumber must be shipped here annually to supply their ordinary wants. The mines and mills in this immediate vicinity will require an equal if not a greater amount of this material. In this traffic alone the narrow gauge would reap a golden harvest. Aside from this the agricultural products of that prolific section would demand the active service of no inconsiderable number of freight trains to transport them to Butte and other markets. In this brief article we have noted only a few reasons why it would be a short-sighted policy on the part of the U. P. company to yield to another advantage which are clearly in its power to obtain and to forever maintain.

Senator Beck of Kentucky, made an able speech against the tariff commission bill on the 10th. He denounced the bill as a cunning scheme of monopolies for delay, resorted to to prevent legislation and of whitewashing all the enormities of the high protective system. He demanded immediate action upon the tariff question. He denounced the present tariff as not in the interest of the people or calculated to produce revenue. That it has fostered smuggling, enriched dishonest officials and bankrupted honest merchants was shown in the investigation in 1874, into the Moly system.

At a Cabinet meeting on the 10th one of the principal topics of discussion was the International Monetary Conference, which resumes its sessions in Paris in April. The United States will have another representative in place of Postmaster-General Howe. The Conference meets in Paris next month.

The London News thinks Mr. Blaine's circular to the South American republics means the establishment of an American protectorate over Central and South America. We admit it may be construed to appear in that light.

IF.

If the Iowa Miners had been content to avoid controversy by making false statements; if when it did make them it had the moral courage and willingness to sustain and support them; if it did not bear daily evidence of timidity and scalliness; if it would turn its attention to the discussion of matters affecting the vital interests of our people; if it did not antagonize their interests by discouraging the coinage of silver; if it did not steal its editorials from the London Times, Blackwood's Magazine and Appleton's Encyclopaedia; if it possessed more brains and fewer shams; if it would devote more of its time in correcting the defects of its own columns and less in pointing out the typographical errors of its contemporaries; if it would discard its antiquated grinding mill on the one side and its snout machine on the other; if it would refer to its contemporaries in terms of respect; if it would endeavor to gain a respectable position in the ranks of journalism by pursuing an honorable, consistent course; if it would seek to maintain a character for honorable, upright dealing, it might gain the respect of the community, command encouragement from its now thoroughly disgusted stockholders, and in time take up its notes, place itself beyond the verge of bankruptcy, and escape the danger of being sold out by the Sheriff.

A GOOD MAN GONE.

In the death of P. G. R. Talliferro Preston Slatiner, of Kentucky, the Order of Odd Fellows throughout the world sustained an irreparable loss. He was an active member of the Order for over forty years, and during the time one of its most trusted counsellors. In the "Companion and American Odd Fellow" of the current month we find the following concerning him: "He entered the Grand Lodge, United States, at the session of 1843, and at once took front rank in the deliberations of that body. And outside of our Order, his name and achievements are chronicled in the archives of the scientific world. Associated with the great Morse, the father of telegraphy, he traveled over nearly the whole of the Eastern world. He had the honor to introduce the telegraph into Russia, studying the customs, laws, various forms of government and manners of the people. Especially did he study the origin of races, and so successfully did he prosecute this search that he became an authority on the subject. In art, in benevolence, and—in its opposite—war, he attained a proud and distinctive eminence. Possessing immense wealth, he distributed it lavishly to benefit humanity. At his own personal cost he fitted an expedition— which he accompanied—for the purpose of taking reliable soundings from the coast of Newfoundland to that of Norway. His liberal spirit in regard to religion is fully shown in the fact, that although brought up in the Methodist faith, he endowed, liberally, a Roman Catholic institution, for educational purposes, on the Hudson river, near New York, which now stands, a noble monument to his memory."

"Gath" in the Cincinnati Inquirer gives a second handed opinion concerning Mr. Blaine's prospects of a nomination for the Presidency in 1884, at the hands of the Democrats. The idea is chimerical in the extreme, and the article which we subjoin was doubtless intended to excite wonder and ridicule more than to create a feeling favorable to his nomination.

"Blaine will go South after a while, and he will make the impression he does everywhere of a wonderful fellow. An Independent Republican like that was not seen in the Greeley campaign. He can say to the leaders there: 'I'll take care of you. You shall get your share under the Federal Government as your fathers had it, and your sons go into the army and navy again. Follow me and I'll hand you tariff policy, and sectionalism will be dead forever and your region shall spring into industry.' What do you suppose they will care about Tilden and Pendleton when they see that chance? Then Blaine, on the Chinese question will carry the Pacific States; and he can carry Indiana and Maine. His foreign policy pleases every Irishman in the North, because the English seemed to be annoyed by it. Add the Irish of the North to the Southern whites and you have the two jaws of the Democratic Party."

The above is an accurate conversation with a man which every reader of your paper knows. My interlocutor continued: "And do you know that Blaine, as it seems to me, is the only man left to play Greeley again in 1884? And I would not wonder if it would win next time. The Democrats are not going to run Hancock again, and they have nobody else they can elect. While Hancock ran close to Garfield in New York State, next time, under Arthur's milder sway, New York will not be a doubtful State. Indiana is too close to nominate or, and the Republicans can afford to let it go. The Democratic game is hopeless, without drawing away a large Republican vote. Blaine can get it. The weakest part of General Arthur's position is that he is supported by Robeson, Logan and Cameron—the three popular bosses of fractious States. In the Senate, Frye, Hale, both the New Hampshire Senators, Edmunds, Hawley, Platt, Sewell of New Jersey, Miller of New York, and perhaps in time Mitchell of Pennsylvania, will be friendly to Mr. Blaine in all that he does. The Northwestern Senators like him, and the Pacific Coast members as well."

The Supreme Court of the United States, decided, on the 10th, in a case brought up on habeas corpus, error to the Supreme Court of California, in relation to the ownership of certain land in Los Angeles county, where a smooth sailing of the land department was set up, that the courts could not exercise any direct appellate jurisdiction over the ruling of subordinate officers of the Land department, or of their superiors in such matters, nor can they reverse or correct them in a collateral proceeding between private parties founded upon them, where no fraud has been practiced upon the officers, and they themselves are not chargeable with any fraudulent conduct. It would lead to endless litigation, and be fruitful of evil if supervisory power were vested in the courts over the action of the numerous officers of the Land department on a mere question of facts presented for their determination. The force and effect of this decision is that the Interior Department rulings are final in all land matters.

Ex-President Zachary Taylor's daughter, who now lives in Virginia, recently received from the treasury of the United States the sum of \$10,000, which was the exact amount of salary that would have been due Gen. Taylor had he lived until the expiration of his term of office. The payment was made in accordance with authority contained in the Deficiency Appropriation bill, passed June 16, 1881.

We may be said to live twice, when we can reflect with pleasure of the days that are gone.

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