

SEMI-WEEKLY MINER.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1882.

**NUMBER AGENTS.**  
The following named parties are authorized agents for the **DAILY and WEEKLY MINER**, and will receive subscriptions, advertising and job printing:  
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The Christian Church at Washington, of which the late President was a member, are to have a new building commenced shortly which is to cost about \$300,000. So far they have \$20,000 toward the amount.

A Berlin dispatch of the 6th says: It is believed the German government will not adhere to any arrangements for the adoption of an international bi-metallic standard without the concurrence of England.

The President on the 7th appointed G. Fisher and G. W. Childs of Pennsylvania and J. G. Belford, of Colorado, members of the assay commission. It will be noticed that silver gets one friend out of three on the commission.

From Chinese exchanges it is learned that on the 10th of last July an earthquake occurred in the district of Kan-chow. A number of men, women and children were killed. The earthquake was followed by a rain storm which inundated a portion of the country and drowned several persons.

This is to be an interesting year in Illinois politics. Congressmen, half of the State Senators, all the Representatives, a State Treasurer, a State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and full county tickets will be elected in November, and the Legislature then elected will choose a successor to Senator David Davis.

When Jay Gould secured control of the Iron Mountain Railroad he cut down the wages of all the men employed, and is now compelled to hire watchmen and offer rewards for the detection of discontented laborers who set fire to freight houses and wood piles and displace switches. It was a poor move for economy.

It was desired as an act of retributive justice to fix Guiteau's execution on July 24, the anniversary of the assassination, but it was discovered that that day fell on Sunday, and the preceding Friday, a day of the week adopted from time immemorial for hangings, was selected. Corkhill says that Guiteau will be under the dissecting knife on Saturday, July 1st.

A German in Chicago procured a marriage license in 1874, and settled down to family duties without further preliminaries. On the 7th inst., with five children on his hands, he has discovered that he was never married, and taking his frau in custody he rushed to a justice's office, the woman falling on her knees, and begging that the ceremony be performed.

A Washington dispatch of the 9th says that Guiteau was vaccinated on that day. The humor of this announcement lies in the solicitude for the assassin's security—the fear that he may get the small-pox and die. A number of the letters received by him contained small-pox seeds. This is the letter that moved him to get vaccinated: "Here, I send you some small-pox. It is worse than the sentence of Judge Cox. Rub yourself with the seed and it will surely stop your gab."

The Chicago *Morning Record*, of the 4th, makes this very sensible observation: "It is more than probable that those who would unwisely cripple the silver interest by making it practically worthless at home, do not consider the fact that a large proportion of the gold produced, is the result of silver mining, and comes from the development of silver mines. Thus a blow that would paralyze the silver interest of this country, would practically destroy the home production of gold."

Mme. Novokoff, a distinguished Russian lady, publishes a letter in the London *News* defending her government against the charges made in connection with the outrages on the Jews. She explains that the Karaites are Russian citizens of Hebrew faith, but that the Talmudists are "aliens settled on Russian soil," and are regarded very much as are the Chinese by the hoodlums of San Francisco. Mme. Novokoff neglects to explain, however, that these Talmudist Jews went into Russia with conquered territory, and not by their own choice.

The Reno *Gazette* gives the following account of an interesting railroad relic: The shovel which broke ground for the Central Pacific railroad is carefully preserved and may be seen in the private office of Huntington & Hopkins' store in Sacramento. It is polished brightly, and the handle is varnished. It is one of the long handled, Mark Hopkins brand. A silver plate on the handle bears these words: Alpha." This shovel was used to cast the first earth in the construction of the Central Pacific railroad at the inauguration ceremonies, January 8, 1862."

SPECIAL LEGISLATION.

Although this is not a vital question in this Territory, where there is no power this side of Congress to abridge the evils of special legislation, it is important, in view of the fact that the day is not far distant when Montana will be knocking for admission to the Sisterhood of States, that correct ideas should prevail upon this question. The discussion of a bill in the House on the 5th, to release the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad company from certain taxes, brought out some very interesting facts upon the subject of special legislation. In 1870 the State of Illinois adopted a new constitution prohibiting special legislation. The statutes adopted at the session of the legislature preceding the adoption of this constitution filled four volumes, aggregating 2,355 pages. The laws of the second session after its adoption were printed on 192 pages. Pennsylvania adopted a new constitution in 1873. Its laws before and after were 1,500 and 80 pages. Similar phenomena attended the adoption of the new constitution of New York in 1874; in New Jersey in 1875; in Missouri in 1875; in Ohio, Alabama, Colorado, Georgia and other States at various times. The decrease in the product of legislative labor in the reduced volumes of statutes must necessarily give the legislative intellect more time for the perfection of general laws. Special legislation is a thing that disgraces but few legislative bodies outside of Congress and the Territorial legislatures (which are helpless to prevent it except by such restraint as may be brought to bear by the force of public opinion.)

REGULATION OF HIGHWAYS.

In the discussion of the postoffice appropriation bill in the House on the 5th, it came out that the government has been paying \$30,000 per annum for crossing its mails on the St. Louis bridge. There are some toll roads and bridges in this region that evidently have not been making the most of their opportunities in this direction. Robeson, of New Jersey, denominated it "a brigand at the Mississippi." Its charter, granted in 1873, contained a provision that "no higher charge per mile shall be made for the transmission of mails," etc., "in its passage across said bridge than charged upon railroads approaching said bridge." The fact that any sum at all has been paid in excess of the amounts paid to railroads, has a sinister appearance. The discussion on the subject ran into the right of Congress to regulate public highways, and in this connection Mr. Robeson quoted Justice Miller's opinion in the Clinton bridge case: "When roads become parts of the great highways of the Union, acting an important part in a commerce which embraces many States, and destined, as some of these roads are, to become the channels through which the nations of Europe and Asia shall interchange their commodities, there can be no reason to doubt that to regulate them is to regulate commerce both with foreign nations and with the States, and that to refuse to do this is a refusal to discharge one of the most important duties of the Federal government." Pending the discussion of this matter the House adjourned without action.

ARROGANT CLAIMS OF INDIANS.

In the dealings of the government with Indians and its whole treatment of the Indian question there seems to be a constant and irritating assumption that the wards of the government are entitled to special consideration over and above their white brethren. It was not long since the Flathead Indians were reported to have driven off the railroad surveyors from their reservation; although it has since been stated that the matter had been arranged. And now comes a St. Paul dispatch of the 8th which says: "Dispatches have been sent by General Terry to Colonel Hatch at Fort Custer, directing the removal from the Crow reservation of the men engaged in cutting railroad ties. The Crows are so uneasy at the presence of these lawless foragers, that rebellion against them is threatened. As the Crows have many rich lands and mineral deposits, efforts will be made in the spring to drive them off."

The laws of all civilized people deny to white owners of real estate the rights to stand in the way of progress; otherwise a handful of settlers along some projected railroad line might eventually resist the completion of the work. The welfare of the public is paramount to that of any individual. Governments wisely reserve to themselves the right of eminent domain. But in regard to the Indians, our government seems to concede that the right of eminent domain inheres in these vagabonds. No matter how necessary it may be for the material prosperity, progress and enlightenment of this region to have it brought into closer relations with other communities, the right is conceded to a handful of Indians to interpose a veto against crossing an Indian reservation.

The recent report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs contained some sensible observations on points closely connected with this subject. The bill prepared by Secretary Kirkwood and

now pending in Congress, provides for a reduction of the present limits of Indian reservations and the conveyance of allotments in severalty to Indians living upon and working lands. The policy of excluding from civilization a large tract of land and setting it apart for a privileged class that makes no use of it is falling into disrepute. The soil of the earth is the common property of mankind, and must be so used as to bring the greatest good to the greatest number. It is not good for the Indian to set apart a large tract of country for him to roam over in a state of vagabondage. There is no hope of his advancement while he remains in this condition. We restrain our white vagrants, because they are dangerous to society, but the government has heretofore encouraged the Indian to continue his life of vagrancy.

The report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs proceeds on the assumption that what is good for the white man is good also for the Indian. The civil and criminal laws that are essential to the welfare and security of civilized society are unquestionably so for savages. When the government adopts as its settled policy that, to compass Indian civilization, it will give these savages to understand that they must work, that they must acquire some desire for accumulation and for the enjoyment of comforts above the requirements of brute existence, and that they are not a privileged class, with superior rights, to be supported in idleness with taxes wrung from the hard hands of toiling millions, then will it be better for both the civilized and the savage. The Crow Indians have no more right to lay an embargo on the further progress of the Northern Pacific than the same number of white citizens living in that locality would have; and, as to the timber growing on the mountains, it belongs to the government and is the common property of the American people. The claim that the Indians were here first, cuts no figure in the determination of this matter.

Impudent Indians.

The war party of Indians who recently stole fourteen head of horses from near Reed's Fort, was composed of two Flatheads and four Bannacks. They came to Al Stevens' place at the Gap, dismounted and entered the saloon, and demanded whisky. When they were refused the liquor they drew their guns, cocked them, and placing them at the proprietor's head compelled him to give them what they wanted. The party visited Martinsdale and obtained whisky at Frank Geugler's store in the same way. The thieves when last seen were going down the Musselshell. A Lieutenant and a command of eleven soldiers and five Cheyenne Indian scouts from Maginnis were in pursuit, but the thieves with a start of five days made good their escape.—*Benton Record*, 6th inst.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is fashionable in New England to drive horses three abreast to sleighs, as the Russians do.

The question whether a Methodist layman may race horses without sin is before a Troy church.

The Indiana secretary of state received an application from a justice of the peace, who wanted an appointment as "noter republic."

The number of scales made by the Fairbanks scales works at St. Johnsbury during the past twelve months has exceeded 63,000, or 8,000 more scales than were sold in 1881.

A New York fireman threw a satchel containing \$46,000 in bonds out of a window, and it was kicked around for six hours before its owner found it. Some folks don't know when they have a good thing.

They searched the school children of Delaware, Ohio, the other day to find a dirk, and the result was the finding of twenty-six pistols and revolvers and six dirks and stabbers. Education reveals some strange straits.

Under Cupid's banner: "Were you ever in an engagement?" inquired an innocent rustic of a great militiaman. "Yes, one," replied the son of Mars, "but she went back on me."

Eastern Oregon butchers have no difficulty in finding cattle fit for the market on any of the hills. The grass has continued so green that stock have not only managed to live without extra feed, but have really fattened.

The Michigan Car Company, of Detroit, completed last year, 6,000 freight cars, requiring in their construction over 30,000,000 feet of lumber and between 40,000 and 50,000 tons of iron and steel. In addition, it did repair work to the value of \$500,000.

The first line of telegraph was erected less than forty years ago, and at the present time there are more than 1,000,000 miles in operation. The United States came first with 250,000 miles with the immediate probability of adding another 100,000 miles; Germany comes next with 150,000 miles, and the great Chinese Empire last, with 1,200 miles.

A sentenced murderer in St. Louis is resisting the efforts of all the clergymen who try to prepare him spiritually for death. "I have always taken care of myself," he says, "and I guess my soul will be able to do the same." No argument moves him.

So microscopically perfect is the watchmaking machinery now in use, that screws are cut with nearly 600 threads to the inch—though the finest used in the watch has 250. These threads are invisible to the naked eye, and it takes 144,000 of these screws to weigh a pound, their value being six pounds of pure gold.

Said Brown, who has just returned from a visit between acts: "Oh, darling, I had such a fright! It almost took my breath away." "Mercy!" exclaimed Mrs. B., turning her face away. "I wish it had, John." And John looked sheepish enough, as he slyly inserted a clove in his mouth.

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