

THE AVANT COURIER

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1877

A One-Rail Road.

California has a one-rail road in operation at Norfolk, on Sonoma Creek, three and a half miles in length, and intended to be extended up the valley. It is called the Primosoidal railway, and was formally opened on November 14. The track is a continuous prism of beveled beams, twenty-seven inches wide and fifteen inches high with a single rail laid on top. The car which travels on the line is supported by two wheels, one at the front and one at the rear, with independent revolving flanges. The locomotive is the first of its kind constructed in the State. The visiting party took their places on the seats which were ranged on each side of the car, the passengers being face to face. The first impression suggested was that which ordinarily fills the bosom of the novice who makes his maiden effort to ride the uncertain bicycle. A certain assurance that the whole thing would topple over at first was the general belief of the uninitiated. But when the engineer sounded his whistle, the passengers gave three tremulous cheers, and the train moved off smoothly, and soon the pace was considerably augmented. Wonderful to relate, says the San Francisco Examiner, the oscillation was scarcely perceptible, and the locomotive and cars rode along a single rail as firmly as the trains on the broadest of English solidly constructed broad gauges. The faster the train proceeded the smaller in number and extent became the lateral oscillations, beautiful and practically exemplifying the great principles of the prismoidal system, that the greater the speed the less liability to oscillate, a principle clearly demonstrated by the gyroscope and velocipede. To those making their first trip on the new railroad, the ease and comfort of this mode of traveling suggested itself strikingly. The train was run out to the end of the completed line, where forty-five men were found continuing the building of the road, onward. The construction of the road has cost, for the present three miles and a half, including the cost of the road-bed over the marsh, about \$4,500,000 a mile, one-half the cost of the narrow-gauge railroad, the most economical of the two-rail systems.

Farm and Stock.

The wool clip of Montana is considerably larger this year than last, when it was about 600,000 pounds, netting the sheep owners \$150,000.

Foreign papers say that the limit of cattle raising has been reached in Europe, and that Great Britain and the continent can take two millions of beavers annually from the United States.

Prof. Stewart, of Cornell University, has found by actual experiment that one quarter of an acre well fed in clover is sufficient to feed one cow 180 days, if cut and fed her, while if allowed to run on it, it would not probably last two weeks.

We never could see what vice or deformity lay in a horse's eye that should make it necessary to cover it up and shut out its owner from at least two-thirds of his rightful field of vision. The poets say that old age looks backward, but we never heard of such an idiosyncrasy charged upon horses. The theory that a horse is less apt to be frightened when he shut out from everything behind him we suspect to be a fallacy, else saddle horses and war-horses would be duly blinded.

Every horse is as familiar with his own carriage as with his own tail, and as far as his "personal" fortitude is concerned, is no more disturbed at being pursued by one than another. As for other scarcities that come behind, they are mostly familiar to the animal, and the more fully the horse can perceive them the more quietly does he submit to their approach. Then it is such a pity to cover up one of the most brilliant features of this most brilliant creature. The horse has borne such a hand in the civilization of this rough-and-tumble world that it seems not so much a cruelty as a discourtesy, as well as a disgrace, to hide his form with embarrassing toggery. No wonder we estimate the force in the world as horse power; no wonder the Romans and Germans, each in their own language, designated their aristocracy as riders; no wonder their descendants made Chivalry a synonym for their highest virtues. Let the horse be given his due, and unblinded.

HARVEST DRINKS—ENGLISH GINGER BEER. Pour four quarts boiling water on one ounce and a half of ginger, one ounce of cream tartar, one pound broken sugar and two lemons sliced thin. Put in two galls yeast, let it ferment twenty-four hours and bottle it. This is declared by those who have used it, to be extra nice.

GINGER BEER. Put two gallons of cold water on the fire and add two ounces of bruised ginger root, and two pounds of clean brown sugar. Let it boil half an hour, then strain and pour into a jar and add one sliced lemon and a half an ounce of cream tartar, when nearly cold add a tea cupful of yeast and after it has "worked" for two days, strain it and bottle for use. Care must be taken to tie the corks down firmly.

SPRUCE BEER. Mix thoroughly in a pail, three quarts of molasses and one ounce of the essence of spruce, to this add one pound of the best ginger, fill the pail with boiling water, then pour the mixture into a clean half barrel, and fill it up with cold water. Add weight of yeast and shake the whole well together. After fermenting one or two days, the bung may be put in, and it will be fit for bottling or for immediate use.

The Household.

MOCK HONEY. A writer in the Housekeeper's Companion gives a recipe for making this honey: To ten pounds of nice white sugar add two pounds of water and four grains cream of tartar, ten drops essence of peppermint, two drops oil of wintergreen, one drop tartar of roses and one large spoonful of flour of slippery elm. First put sugar in a pot or preserving kettle, then put in the oil, then drop the tartar and essence upon a piece of sugar, then put in the water, put on the fire, and when

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