

News and Comments.

There are nearly two thousand persons in the Illinois penitentiaries.
Hannibal was re-elected speaker for the extraordinary session of Congress.

Some of the Western Senators complain because only Eastern Senators were appointed chairman on the committee.
The Senate on March 21, the Swiss State Council, by a vote of 27 to 15, resolved to restore capital punishment in Switzerland.

An English company is about to start at Finsburg, Holland, for the importation of American meat, alive and dead, for German markets.
Byward Taylor's body was received in New York city on the 13th inst., with the remains, and followed through the streets from the steamer to the City Hall.

In the great walking match in New York city, Rowell, the English contestant, was the winner, he having made the 500 miles to Emily's 475 and Harrison's 470.
A family of twenty—the Portland Bee says that a recent steamer arrival brought to that city a man, his wife and eighteen children, who propose to make Oregon their future home.

Pullman's arch-angel has finally been cast into prison, there to be reserved in chains of darkness for the next decade unless sooner released by an inscrutable dispensation of the powers that be.
The Thomas William Sherman who died at Northfield, Mass., was a brave soldier in the rebellion, who lost a leg in one of his battles.

On the 6th of March the Missouri river was still frozen over at Bismarck, but was open at Yankton on the 10th, but was running full of ice, with an occasional gorge.
The final award for transportation on the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers has been made at Washington, and the contract goes to S. B. Cookson.

A Chinaman from the Pacific coast is returning under the management of H. Hansboro, who with Chester C. Hull, better known as the "Monumental Lecturer for him," have written several lectures for Jobe, Chinaman and start him out expecting to reap their fortune.
The War Department has ordered the march to protect the iron Atlanta to Bismarck.

Many more bodies have been recovered from the Hungarian food—800 in all—yet this is but a small part of that which were drowned. Hundreds are known to be covered by the debris of fallen buildings and other material. The stench arising from the decaying remains is said to be fearful, yet it is impossible to remove them at present.

WHAT CROPS TO CULTIVATE.

As the sowing and planting season is near at hand, it may not be amiss for the farmers of Gallatin county to consider well, before proceeding to their spring work, what crops will be best, surest and most profitable for them to cultivate the coming season.

The population of the Territory being as yet comparatively small and the demand for produce being quite limited, it is a very easy matter for the farmers to produce a large surplus of any single commodity and thus bring about a ruinously low market for the entire crop.

It is to be regretted on many accounts that there should be such strong competition, so little mutual understanding between merchants and farmers among farmers themselves in bidding on Government contracts. If the matter could be properly arranged, Government officials generally prefer paying at least remunerative prices for all forage and subsistence required at the various military posts in the Territory, but competition is usually so strong and bidders so numerous and anxious for contracts that they are virtually denied the privilege of doing so.

The present contractor having failed, a new contract is to be made with Levi L. Blake, of Washington City, for carrying the mail from Franklin, Idaho, to Helena for three months and three months, beginning April 1st.
A good deal of sympathy is expressed for Geo. W. Fox, who still looks on the outer world through iron bars. Sympathy is a good thing in its place, but it is well in these degenerate days, that there are some who demand justice to be done, "though the heavens should fall."

The "spinals," the usual couriers of the spring migration of ducks, have arrived, and the new crop in the valley is seedling with their white and the singing of duck shot. The geese are also in, and the supply of game in the Helena market exceeds the demand.
The proprietors of a Main street store, from which various small articles have recently vanished, have discovered the juvenile pillers who were responsible for their disappearance, and frightened the youngsters sufficiently so that it is to be hoped, to make them honest in the future.

It looks as though the Montana Navigation Company will fail to accomplish its object, though its failure would be a severe blow to Helena "enterprise," which ought to hide its light under a bush but can't carry through a scheme of so much importance as that of Upper Missouri navigation.
E. M. McGrath, foreman of the Whip-poorwill mine, was severely hurt the other day by a plank which fell on or over his head, striking him on the head and knocking him senseless. The brain was effected by the shock, but he is expected to recover shortly.

A minister of the Christian church—the first who has preached in Helena for ten years—conducted services at the Presbyterian church this morning and evening.
The Old Fellows are going to erect a Temple in Helena, which will be one of the finest buildings in the metropolis. It will be located on Main street below the Orphan land Hotel, and is to be two stories high, with a nine foot basement, a hundred feet long and thirty feet wide, and the lodge room on the second floor will be 23x100 feet and 20 feet in height with an arched ceiling. Excavations will commence at once and the corner stone will be laid in the latter part of April.

Washington, March 21.—An important correspondence relating to the war in South Africa is published. Lord Chelmsford writes from Durban, under date of the 9th of February, as follows: It is very desirable that a Major-General be sent to South Africa without delay. In June last I mentioned privately to the Duke of Cambridge that the strain of prolonged anxiety and exertion was telling on me. What I felt then I feel still more now. Sir Bartle Frere concurs in his representation, and has proposed to me that the officer selected should be fitted to succeed him in his position of High Commissioner.
This letter was addressed to the Secretary of War, and was received by him March 13th.

Washington, March 19.—The following is the resolution which was offered in the Senate by Edmunds to-day.
Whereas, The necessity for the present special session of Congress has been occasioned by the failure of the last Congress to make appropriations for the support of the army, and for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the government for the next fiscal year; and,
Whereas, The business and other public interests of the country will be best promoted by confining the legislation of this session to making provision for the objects aforesaid, and by an early adjournment; therefore be it

HELENA LETTERS.

HELENA, MONTANA, March 23, 1879.
A stiff breeze last night. Snow on the mountains; none in town. Much lumber is coming in the city. Builders will have their hands full the coming season.

Roads are muddy, but drying quickly. A few fire lights on St. Patrick's Day, and one contribution to the school fund. A number of Helena young men have organized a reading club in the St. Louis Hotel.
Examinations at the school will continue this week, after which there is a brief vacation.

At the planning mill of Shaffer & Yergo, Mr. Shaffer, while feeding a buzz saw, lost two of the fingers of his left hand. From time immemorial an antipathy has existed between fingers and buzz saws.
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Telegrams.

John Chinaman in Iowa. Dubuque, March 20.—Even the three Chinamen who live in Dubuque cannot remain peacefully. Last night the residence of Cha Kee was invaded by Sam Lee, and in the latter after stabbing the former in the head, robbed him of forty dollars.

Altonton (Pa.), March 17.—There was found this morning beneath the snow which fell last night a substance, in some places half an inch deep, strongly resembling sulphur. It has the color and smell, and a quantity of it scraped together and set on fire burned as rapidly, and emitted the same fumes, as sulphur.

Montgomery, March 17.—There was a disturbance at Helena, Arkansas, yesterday, growing out of a difficulty between a white man and a negro. It assumed such proportions that the Governor ordered the Birmingham rifles to the scene. Everything is now quiet.

Washington, March 19.—Representative Sparks will submit to the House, at the first practical moment, the Army Appropriation bill, and call for immediate action. The bill will be identical in provisions with that passed with the last House, and which failed of enactment in consequence of the incorporation therein of a clause prohibiting the presence of troops at the polls.

San Francisco, March 19.—The crop reports received to-day from all parts of the State are of the most flattering nature, with the exception of some places in the upper portion of San Joaquin valley and Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. The late rains have been very beneficial, and the prospect is for more than average crops in the State at large.

Washington, March 17.—Congressman Whitaker, of Oregon, arrived here at ten o'clock this morning, having made the fastest time on record between San Francisco and Washington. He kept his special train all the way to Omaha, and then took a special train at Council Bluffs over the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road, running on a distance of five hundred miles, in twenty hours and a half.

New York, March 21.—The Herald to-day says: If the probabilities are fulfilled, as they seem to be in a fair way to be, Jerome Park will be the scene of the most exciting international race America has ever known. The famous English colt, Peter, who has never been beaten but once, and against whom no English turfman would care to wager except with enormous odds in his favor, is expected to come over and run a mile and a half against Keen's Splendid, who has never been beaten at all. Both horses are under the management of men who mean business, and unless some previous accident to either animal prevents, the race is sure to be run.

St. Louis, March 20.—A terrible prairie fire recently occurred in Republic and Cloud counties, Kansas. It extended over an area of ten miles long and three miles wide, and consumed a vast amount of property, including farms, buildings, and stock. The loss is estimated at \$40,000.

Washington, March 21.—Senator Blaine is preparing an elaborate and extremely powerful speech for delivery in the Senate at some fitting opportunity during the large session in reply to Eastern criticism on his fitness for the office of High Commissioner. He will support the position taken by him in the debates on that measure and in his letter to William Lloyd Garrison by an overwhelming array of arguments, many of which will be found surprisingly fresh even by Pacific coast readers, and which, there is reason to hope, will have a most beneficial effect in further enlightening Eastern sentiment, for Blaine's utterances are sure to attract attention all over the country, and he intends this time alike to challenge a refutation and guard himself at every point against the possibility of successful rejoinder.

War Vessel for Alaska.

San Francisco, March 17.—The United States corvette Alaska, which recently arrived from New York via Panama, has received orders to go to Sitka. She will sail as soon as she can take stores on board.

A Batch of Counterfeiters Jugged. Milwaukee, March 18.—Twelve persons, recently convicted of counterfeiting, were to-day sentenced to various terms in the penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois, by the U. S. Court of this district.

Surprised at its Brevity. Washington, March 19.—The President's message by its brevity excited surprise, and its statement that the country needed peaceful rest from legislation was received with applause on the Republican side.

A Mississippi Tragedy. Vicksburg, (Miss.) March 19.—Last night a shooting affray occurred between Captain W. F. Fitzgerald, Captain W. H. Andrews and W. L. Greene. Andrews and Greene were killed almost instantly, and Fitzgerald was dangerously wounded.

Kearney Gets a Drubbing. San Francisco, March 20.—Kearney is stumping Southern California for the new constitution. In his speeches he abuses the people without stint. A dispatch from Santa Ana says: To-day a man who was vilified, after he got through speaking, gave Kearney an unmerciful beating.

Vanderbilt's Will Ordered for Probate. New York, March 19.—Surrogate Colvin, in concluding a very lengthy decision in the Comodore Vanderbilt will case, says: "I am of the opinion that the probate of the will and codicil should in all things be confirmed, and let a form of the decision or decree be presented for settlement and signature on thirty days notice."

Deadwood, March 19.—The Jury in the case of the Territory vs. Clark, Travis and Smith, charged with murder of Alex. Frankenberg, at Lead City last January, returned a verdict this morning of acquittal. After hearing the verdict, Judge Moody severely criticised the action of the Jury and intimated very strongly that they were controlled by corrupt influences.

Washington, March 17.—The case of Mary S. Oliver against Hon. Simon Cameron for \$50,000 damages for breach of promise of marriage, came up in the Circuit Court to-day. The plaintiff testified that in 1875 Cameron proposed marriage to her and she accepted. Three letters from Cameron were submitted, one of them closing with the sentence, "You will be my wife." Cameron did not come to the house where she lived, as he said the wife there did not like it. She saw him quite often in this city. He would come from Helena about once in every two weeks and stay at the Commercial Hotel. There were improper privileges taken with her by Cameron during the existence of the engagement. Adjudged.

Washington, March 19.—The following is the Presidents message: Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: Failure of the last Congress to make requisite appropriations for the expenses of the several executive departments of the government, and for the support of the army, has made it necessary to call a special session of the forty-sixth Congress. Estimates of the appropriations needed, which were sent to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury at the opening of the last session, are renewed and herewith transmitted to both the Senate and House of Representatives. Regretting the existence of an emergency, which requires a special session of Congress at a time when it is the general judgment of the country that the public welfare will be best promoted by permanency in our legislation and by peace and rest, I commend these few recess measures to your considerate attention.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure. Dr. C. L. BISHOP Dental Surgeon. Established in Montana in 1866!

WEINSCHEIDT & BRO. THE LARGEST Grocery House! IN THE TERRITORY, HAVE OPENED A— BRANCH HOUSE AT BOZEMAN, MONT., AND INVITE ALL PURCHASERS OF GROCERIES TO CALL ON THEM. We buy all kinds of Produce; also Hides, Furs and Buffalo Robes.

FRANK HARPER, Bozeman Restaurant. TO THE FRONT! OPEN NIGHT AND DAY! Fresh Oysters!

UNION MILLS SPRING HILL, MONTANA. A person of experience desires to obtain a position as leading singer in an operatic or dramatic troupe or in a church choir.

PROPOSALS FOR BACON. PURCHASING OFFICE AND DEPOT OF U. S. ARMY, HELENA, M. T., MARCH 22, 1879.

FOR CASH! We will pay the highest price (in cash) for ROBES, FURS & HIDES.

THE AVANT COURIER ANNUAL FOR 1879. It contains, among other things, two pages of just such information as is desired about the farming, stock-raising, mining and other resources of Montana.

Wholesale & Retail. ALL KINDS OF MEATS. SLOAN & PROFFIT, PROPRIETORS. DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF MEATS.