

THE INLAND LAKE IMPROVEMENTS.

Just at the present time the TRIBUNE conceives that the improvement of the navigation of the inland lakes and rivers is the most important matter for the citizens of Cheboygan to labor to attain. True, the railroad is a very important matter, one to which the TRIBUNE has time and again called the attention of its readers, and one which it will at all times advocate, and about which it will give the latest intelligence. But at the present time there seems to be very little prospect that much, if anything, will be done at its extension this season. But in regard to the improvement of our inland navigation the case is different. This is something upon which we have to depend upon no outside corporation. It is a matter which is of vital importance to Cheboygan and this whole northern section of country. It is a matter that we are not compelled to watch and wait for. It is something, that if we have the necessary amount of energy and enterprise, that we can go ahead and accomplish, not next year, but this.

For some months the TRIBUNE has been possessed of information concerning efforts which were being made to secure the completion of this work, which for various reasons was withheld from the public. The reasons which prompted this course are now no longer binding.

Some time since, Mr. John McKay, the local state road commissioner, conceived the idea of securing an appropriation of swamp lands from the state to complete this work, and with him to conceive the idea was to act, and since that time he has been steadily at work getting matters in shape to secure the appropriation, when it was deemed the proper time to apply for it. It has been to this end that this journal has directed its efforts. It would now seem that a time had come when an application for an appropriation of lands for this purpose would stand a fair show of being successful, and it will not be long before such an application will be made. Its success, of course, will depend somewhat upon the interest taken in the project by our citizens. This journal has already spoken somewhat at length of the advantages which would accrue, not only to the entire interior for which this improvement would open up for settlement and improvement, but to Cheboygan itself, so that it is not necessary to repeat them here. However, in regard to the advantages, the completion of this work would be to the large interior, we would say that the very best farming land in the state are in the vicinity of these lakes and rivers, and would, if this project could be carried to completion, be brought within a very few hours of a good home and foreign market, really nearer and cheaper than they would be at half the distance where everything had to be transported in wagons. Not only is the land tributary to these lakes most beautifully located, but it is also very superior land for farming purposes. With this work completed, there would not be a more popular or available place in the state for settlement, and many years would not elapse before it would be supporting a large population. This is no child of the imagination. Already the country has been seen and appreciated by many; and even without the advantages this improvement would give them, is being settled by those who see the future of the country, but with it the settlement would be rapid.

Whether the Board of Control will grant the aid which will be required or not, remains to be proved. The swamp lands were ceded to the state by the government for inland improvements, and by the legislature placed in the hands of the Board of Control, to be used at their discretion for the opening up of the resources of the country by building roads and such other work as would come under that head. The same amount of money expended in improving this river and lake navigation, would assist in developing four times as much country, per dollar expended, as in building roads. When the whole matter is placed properly before the Board, we have not much fear of the result. It is now in the hands of those interested in the work, and everything will be done which would have any influence in accomplishing the object. If the Board can see the necessity of the work as we see it, and grant the aid without delay, the work could be nearly if not quite completed this season. At any rate, it could be made ready for business as soon as the lakes are open next year.

CO-OPERATION.

Ever since its inception the TRIBUNE has constantly labored to disseminate information regarding the resources of Northern Michigan and the importance of Cheboygan as its business center. We have the pleasure of knowing that the effects have already been felt. Parties have come here to inspect the country whose attention had thus been attracted to it. This is only the commencement of what the future will be. All those who have been here have gone away much surprised as well as pleased with the place and its surroundings. Those who come should be treated and entertained in such a manner by our citizens as will render their visit a pleasant one, and going away will carry with them pleasant recollections of the place and its people. When people come here the province of the newspaper ceases. The mere getting them here is not enough. They should be made to feel by their reception that they are not in a strange land and among strangers. In this work every citizen, whatever his station and business, has a duty to perform that should not be neglected. This work should not be left for a few individuals to do. There should be a general co-operation among all citizens to see that not in a single instance is this duty neglected. It may be that the governing motive should be a higher one than selfishness.

but this is a work which will pay and pay largely—something that everybody can appreciate. In reality there should be some organized plan of operations.

The TRIBUNE will not at present say just what this plan should be. Any way which may be devised will meet with its hearty support. It is only by all citizens interested in the improvement of the place and surrounding country working together as one man that the greatest results can be accomplished. We trust that some interested party will take this matter in hand and devise some organization which will have the effect of producing the above named results.

THE CLOVER CROP.

In many sections of the country the farmers depend upon the clover crop to fertilize their land and to keep it in good condition for crops. Clover is in reality the most profitable crop that the farmer can raise, for without it the other crops are of very little value. It is the universal testimony of farmers that soil which will produce good clover is always first-class farming land. One great objection which is urged by farmers further south against this as a farming country, is that clover would not stand the winters here, and therefore there would be no cheap method of keeping the soil in condition for other crops. This belief is, and has been, general for years. Actual demonstration has proven beyond a doubt the falsity of this idea. There is no place in the state where clover will do better than in Cheboygan and adjoining counties. In fact we do not believe that there is a place where it does as well. In almost every other section of the state clover is an uncertain crop for two reasons. First, the winters are of such a nature that too often the crop is injured or totally destroyed; and, second, owing to the extremely hot and many times dry weather shortly after the young plants are up in the spring, they are often killed at that time.

Here everything is different. Clover is one of the most, if not the most, certain crop that a farmer can raise. The winter is never known to injure it. The snows come on in the fall and remain the entire winter. There are not those sudden changes of freezing and thawing which heave the clover roots out of the ground and thus destroy them. The result is that the crop comes out in the spring in splendid condition with a sure crop in the near future. This will continue as many years as the farmer may choose to permit his field to remain seeded. This may seem an exaggerated statement to those farmers who judge from their own experience that clover will "run-out" after two or three years. To the doubting ones we would say, come and see for yourselves. Fields of clover can be seen in this vicinity which have been seeded over twenty years, the growth of which is as strong and healthy as ever. Clover grows equally well upon our hardwood soils and upon the lighter and more sandy portions. This shows that the climate is peculiarly adapted to the growth of this most important crop.

WHAT IS NEEDED.

The towns and cities throughout the country which have a rapid and permanent growth are those whose citizens work harmoniously together for the purpose of securing that growth. The only way to secure this necessary and general co-operation is by forming an association. There are a great many large cities which attribute their growth largely to the work done by such associations. Jackson some time since organized a citizens association specially charged with the duty of presenting the advantages of that city to the notice of capitalists, and inviting them to locate there and engage in manufacturing or other business. What is the result? Jackson to-day is growing more rapidly than any other city in Michigan. An association of this nature is precisely what Cheboygan needs to insure its permanent prosperity. We trust that some action will soon be taken looking towards the accomplishment of this important object.

HEAVY FAILURE.

The Bank of California failed last week with liabilities of upwards of \$14,000,000, and assets about half that amount. It had been considered throughout the whole country one of the most substantial institutions. The failure is attributed to the mismanagement of its president, Wm. C. Ralston, and at a meeting of the directors on the 27th ult., he was requested to resign, which he did. A few hours later the city of San Francisco was thrilled with the announcement that he was dead—drowned; whether a suicide or not is not yet ascertained, probably a suicide. Ralston was one of the most public spirited men in the country, and his death produced intense feeling. His funeral last Monday was attended by over twenty thousand persons. The effect of the failure must be quite disastrous to the commercial interests of California.

MICHIGAN AND WISCONSIN.

The Detroit Tribune says that the result of the recent state census in Wisconsin seems to indicate that that state, so nearly equal to our own in area and population, has since 1870 been increasing in population at nearly the same rate with our own. Between 1860 and 1870 Michigan outstripped Wisconsin, and whereas the latter had 26,668 more people in 1860, it had 129,389 less in 1870. At the last named date the population of Michigan was 1,184,058, and that of Wisconsin 1,054,670. The census of Michigan taken last year showed a population of 1,330,111, an increase in five years of 146,053, or 36,574 a year. The census of Wisconsin which has just been completed shows a population of 1,236,599, which gives an average increase of 54,385 a year. The race is close, it will be seen, but Michigan holds her own, and a little more.

SEVERAL degrees in Georgia have been arrested charged with being engaged in a conspiracy to murder the whites. One is said to have made a confession. The trial of a portion of them commenced in Augusta on the 30th ult. before Judge Herschell V. Johnson.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the Californians actually hate the Chinese, and kill them off as fast as possible, the immigration from China increases with every month. Since 1862, 113,074 Chinese immigrants have come to California. Of this number 4,173 are women, and all Chinese women who come to this country are prostitutes.

ONE of California's contributions to the Centennial will be a section of a sapling from Tulare County. The "silver" is sixteen feet in length, twenty-one feet in diameter at the larger end and nine-tenths feet at the smaller. The heart will be taken out and the shell divided into eight parts, in order to allow it to pass through the tunnels on the road.

A HIGH joint commission has been appointed for the purpose of again examining the Chicago custom-house. This has been done in response to the pressure brought to bear upon the President and Secretary Bristow by Chicagoans in favor of an early resumption of work. But unless the "high joints" stir themselves, winter will have set in, and it will be impossible to do anything before next spring.

PROFESSOR WINCHELL thinks it would be judicious to undertake a boring at any point along the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad. A failure to strike a workable bed of coal at one place would be no presumption against success at another place ten miles distant. The likelihood of striking coal is no greater in the valleys than on the hills; but the lower positions would economize expense in boring and tubing, and afterwards in shafting and curbing.

The Chicago Times' correspondent says of the way the "New" broom in Treasurer Spinner's place is working: "Treasurer New is gradually hedging the cash-room of the treasury with rules and regulations, until the place has earned the name of the menagerie. It is his intention to use every possible means to prevent any further successful operations on the part of thieves, to-day each clerk's desk in the treasury proper was fenced in with a strong wire fencing, and a strict order issued to the effect that no clerk will be allowed within the enclosure of any but his own desk. This prevents them having anything to do with each other's work, and in the event of a package being stolen, by any possibility, by one of the clerks, the responsibility can at once be located."

HUGH McCULLOCH, Secretary of the Treasury under Andrew Johnson, has written an interesting sketch of that gentleman, as he observed him during four years of intimate official intercourse. He ascribes to Mr. Johnson vigor of intellect, honesty of purpose, tenacity of convictions, and an unwavering patriotism. His faults were excessive combativeness, a tendency to make speeches, and a mistrust of those around him, who might have rendered him material assistance had he confided in them. It is pleasant to know that Mr. McCulloch emphatically denies that Mr. Johnson was an intemperate man. Mr. McC. states that he was as decorous a gentleman as ever occupied the White House, although he never had the breeding which we all instinctively feel should attach to the Presidency.

The late state census of Louisiana shows the entire population of the state to be 854,980—an increase over 1870 of 128,065. The number of whites in the state is 404,961, of the blacks 450,029; the blacks being in excess of the whites 45,068. The increase of the whites in the state over the number in 1870 is 42,896, and that of the blacks 95,819. The census shows a population of 203,368 for the city of New Orleans—an increase of 11,950 since the census of 1870. The number of whites in city is 145,721, an increase of 4,098; the number of blacks in the city is 57,647, an increase of 7,191. The increase of whites in the state since 1870 is in excess of 11 1/2 per cent; the increase of blacks during the same period has been in excess of 23 1/2 per cent. In the city of New Orleans the whites have increased 3 1/2 per cent., and the blacks 14 1/5 per cent.

POLITICAL.

Senator McDonald, of Indiana, is still crusading in Ohio. He spoke last Friday to an enormous audience of fifty-seven enthusiastic Democrats.

Nast's cartoon touching the Ohio campaign last week, represents Senator Thurman in a state of profound perplexity over a rag baby deposited on his doorstep.

Messrs. Loring, Talbot and Rice are expected to go into the Massachusetts gubernatorial Convention with nearly equal strength—with the chances in favor of Mr. Rice or some outside candidate.

The Erie county, Pa., Democratic Convention on the 30th ult., unanimously resolved to present William A. Galbraith, of that city, as a candidate for Governor at the coming State Convention, but Mr. Galbraith by letter emphatically declined to allow the use of his name and will not be a candidate.

The Springfield Republican says that "the credit of preventing Matt Carpenter from making a fool of himself by going to the soft money pow-wow at Detroit is due to Zack Chandler and John Sherman. That ineffable donkey of an ex-Congressman Field is quoted as expressing a belief that the arguments used by Chandler were of a pecuniary nature."

The Democrats of Oregon have been left out in the cold by the consolidation of the Independent and Republican parties in that state. The declination of Mr. Whitney, Independent candidate for Congress, has been accepted in good faith, and it appears to be settled that the Republican candidate will receive the full party vote. The result will probably be a Republican victory.

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