Donaldsonville Chief.

Official Journal of Parish of Ascension.

Official Journal Town of Donaldsonville.

LINDEN E. BENTLEY,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Saturday, February 15, 1873.

R. H. Chadbourne, Esq., has been elected to the Senate from the Sixth District, beating his competitor, Hon. M. F. Smith, some 1500 votes.

Hon. Geo. E. Bovee, State Senator elect from this Sixth District, is expected to return from Washington in a day or two and take his seat in the Senate.

The State Senate has selected a Board of Returning Officers to canvass the returns of the special elections which have recently been held to fill vacancies in the Senate. Messrs. James Longstreet, John Lynch, L. M. Kenner, G. Devezan and J. Madison Wells constitute the Board.

Some idea of what is being done in California to repair the enormous waste of forest areas may be gathered from the statement that a single forest grown in the State has over 50,000 trees of the Encalyptus variety under cultivation. When it is known that, in Australia, this tree has often attained a height of 480 feet, the above aggregate becomes somewhat formidable. A correspondent of the General Land office, a few years ago, stated that an Encalyptus in Colorado had, in five years, acquired a thickness of trunk of fifteen inches. At such a rate of growth the treeless region beyond the Mississippi may soon become a wilderness of vegetation.

The old "Eastern Question," the bugbear of the last two or three generations of European statesmen, has again reared its head. Russia, pursuant of her policy of expansion, has finally come in contact with English power in Asia. She was allowed, without hindrance, to annex the whole area of northern Asiatic deserts, but when she essays to bathe her feet in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean she meets a net-work of civilized interests which has time and again repelled her. It is entirely useless for her to attempt to hold her own in Asia against the developed force of the Anglo-Indian empire. Her resources are vast, but her internal communications are too scanty to permit their being wielded with success in a forward movement. From her military position on the Caspian it will be impossible to throw an army with requisite supplies across the deserts of Turkestan sufficient to meet the 150,000 Sepoys and Afghans that England can bring against her.

The U. S. Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections made a preliminary report in the Louisiana case Monday last, which was nothing more than a general summing up of the evidence, without recommendation for action. The report set forth that, according to the decisions of the State Courts, the Lynch-Longstreet Returning Board was the legal one, while the legal returns were held by the Wharton Board. Acting upon the expressed opinion of the committee, that "neither the Senate or both houses jointly have the power to canvass the returns of an election and count the votes to determine who have been elected presidential electors, but that the mode and manner of choosing electors are left exclusively to the States, and if by the laws of the State they are to be elected by the people, the method of counting the votes and ascertaining the result can only be regulated by the laws of the State," the Senate decided to throw out the electoral vote of Louisiana entirely, the vote on this question being 32 yeas to 16 nays. A previous proposition to count the electoral vote for Greeley and Brown was defeated by 19 yeas to 35 nays.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections closed its labors, so far as the taking of testimony is concerned, day before yesterday, and a report may be looked for in a few days. No satisfactory conclusion in regard to the recommendations of the committee can be arrived at from present indications. We have no shadow of doubt in our own mind that Mr. Pinchback and Ray will be admitted to the Senate and the Kellogg State Government thus recognized and upheld.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 6, 1873.

EDITOR CHIEF:

The weather is exceedingly mild and the snow is melting rapidly. The streets are in a filthy condition.

It is rumored that an effort will be made as soon as the Poland Credit Mobilier Committee reports, to send a communication to the Senate, censuring Senator Patterson for his connection with the Credit Mobilier with a view to influence that body to expel him. Thus far there seems no disposition on the part of Mr. Patterson to further defend himself in the matter.

Mr. James Brooks called to his assistance to-day in the Credit Mobilier Committee Messrs. Horace F. Clarke, President of U. P. R. R., Representatives Beck and Voorhees. By the first he showed that 100 per cent. was not a large profit for constructing a railroad. By the other gentlemen he satisfied the Committee, if the witnesses were to be believed, that he, the Hon. James Brooks, had never been before the U. P. R. R. Committee in advocacy of any measure directly or indirectly in the interest of the R. R. Clarke's opinion of Ames, to-wit: that he (Ames) was an honest and upright man, elecited a great deal of interest, and the friends of Ames consider it a big assistance to him in sustaining his character against those who they claim are heaping calumny upon his head.

The Board of Public Works are still in an insolvent condition and the *Chronicle* is criticising severely its conduct in the management of affairs. Only a few months since, the Hon. A. B. Shepherd, Vice President of the Board, boasted that there was not a paper in the District that did not endorse the Board and its management, and when a poor real estate owner who already had his property under heavy mortgage called upon him and remonstrated against the immediate payment of exorbitant taxes resulting from extravagance of the Board, replied that "if you are not able to hold your property you should sell it to some one who can."

Secretary Boutwell has been interviewed by several Senators in respect to the striking from the legislative appropriation bill the discretionary appropriation of some $20,000 for additional compensation to the clerks in his department. It has long been the custom to give this money to the Secretary to use in the way above indicated. When it came up in the Senate about a week since it was strongly opposed by several Senators, among who was Senator Window, who suggested that it was the duty of the Senate to insist that all appropriations and disbursements should be specific; that the practice of giving to the heads of a department such discretionary powers was setting a bad precedent, and that while his confidence in the honesty of the present Secretary was unshaken, he felt it his duty to oppose it. The Secretary has been before the House Appropriation Committee and insisted that the loss of this appropriation would increase the liability of losing his best clerks.

The Bureau of Education is receiving, daily, school book publications, specimens of school apparatus and furniture from the publishers and manufacturers throughout the country to be forwarded to the Vienna Exposition. With the exception of the expressage to Washington, which is paid by the senders of this material, the Government assumes the remainder of the expense in transporting it to Vienna and displaying it. The government will transport the material of all kinds in two vessels, the first of which sails the 20th of March. Gen. Eaton has been besieged with applications from parties desiring to be appointed as commissioners to superintend our educational display at Vienna, but no one has been appointed, and it is understood that the appointing power is in the hands of Gen. Van Buren, the U. S. Commissioner. The report of the Bureau of Education for '71 has been entirely distributed, so that those who still desire to obtain the report should apply to their members of Congress.

The vestibule of the North wing of the Capitol has presented quite a novel spectacle since the placing of the competitive models for the Farragut statue, on exhibition yesterday, and a continuous stream of spectators have poured in ever since. The models have been adjusted in line on a long bench, covered with a grayish cloth which gives it a respectable appearance, and they remain as they were placed by the hands of the competing artists; a few of them occupy separate stools, and tower a little above the others but in no instance is the view of one obstructed by another. Eleven o'clock, yesterday, having been fixed by the Committees of Public Buildings and Grounds for the inspection of the models, the Capitol police having cleared the vestibule, the artists presented themselves and were admitted separately, each to explain his model, at the conclusion of which ceremony the police withdrew and the crowd in waiting pressed in. It is thought that the Committee will reflect some days before selecting a model. Dr. Horatio Stone, although having prepared a model for a statue of Farragut eight feet in height at the Navy Yard, has not deposited it in the Capitol with the rest for public inspection.

Carpenter, the painter, it seems, is somehow in luck with his picture of "Lincoln and his Cabinet" this time. A resolution has been offered and adopted in the House directing the Joint Library Committee of Congress to purchase the same; and we are told the artist's price for this—daub, I was going to say, is only $25,000, the price allowed Mr. Powell for his painting representing "Perry's Victory." That $25,000 is too much for such a picture as Mr. Powell's is conceded by every one; yet comparing this painting with Mr. Carpenter's, it at once looms up to a magnificent production of American genius.

We are mistaken if we attempt to patent the epizootic by right of original discovery. It raged in the British colony of South Africa in 1854 and 1855, where it has been known in recurring cycles of twenty years, being traced back as early as 1780. In this region the visitations are far more fatal than our late experience has been. Animals apparently well in the morning were found *inanimate mortis* before sunset. The fatality was especially marked in those ranges in which little or no shelter was provided. Among the causes alleged for the disease was the rapid change in the temperature of the days and nights. The real cause, however, is yet as little known as in the case of our own late epizootic.

The collision between Russia and England depends upon the violation of the north frontier of Afghanistan by the former. England has defined this line locating it on a nearly east and west line through Lake Sir-i-kol. If Russia crosses that line in pursuit of her scheme of conquest, England will support the Ameer of Afghanistan, and bring to the rescue her immense force already organized in India. Her railway communications enable her to bring to bear the Indian Empire to an extent which Russia can not meet under the necessity of her position, having to transport troops and supplies over thousands of miles of deserts. Under the circumstances Russia will stop in her career of conquest and will again "bide her time."

Mr. Boutwell will have a good time if he follows all the advice that is tendered him in the management of the fiscal affairs of the nation. Every one of our financial wiseacres assume such a perfect knowledge of the whole subject and such dogmatic positiveness and infallibility that the public ideas are terribly confused. One wants payments on the public debt to go on; another wants them stopped One wants the Secretary to let the money market alone, and another wants the Government to control Wall Street with a strong hand. One wants expansion and another contraction. To cure the absurdity it is proposed to constitute an advisory board of intelligent and virtuous citizens, retired from business and not interested in bank stock, to stand at Mr. Boutwell's elbow and to give him official and authoritative advice. Fortunately Mr. Boutwell carries a pretty level head of his own and manages to please the vast majority of his fellow citizens by tangible results of a most beneficial character.

The repeal of all usury laws is now being vigorously pressed in different quarters. It is argued that money, like any other commodity, should be left for regulation to the mutual convenience and necessities of the borrower and lender. This, however, is an assumption not verified by any experience as yet. Money is in some respects only a commodity, but its specific character is that of a measure of all other commodities. Whether the elements which should determine this question, grew out of the former or latter character, has, as yet, been determined by no specific facts. Much idle speculation and debate has been wasted on the question which now comes up for practical settlement.

There is a movement on foot to erect and open here, by the middle of next October, the most magnificent opera house south of New York.

The Commissioner of Education has received a letter from Dr. Gollandet, President of the Deaf Mute College, dated at Leipsic, Germany, January 14, giving an interesting account of his experience abroad and of his improved health. He states, also, that he is in favor of calling a convention of instructors of deaf mutes at Vienna, in connection with the exhibition. This would afford an opportunity for a very interesting and useful conference.

It appears here that the capital and deposits of the banks of Chicago are greater than the bank capital and deposits of St. Louis and Cincinnati combined. This, the Chicago papers parade into a pardonable variety but it will not bear out the inferences they would draw from it. In individual power the Southern cities will either of them outweigh their late rival, as Philadelphia outweighs New York. In New York and Chicago, whose special reliance is trade, capital makes any number of unnecessary turns every year. In Philadelphia, Cincinnati and St. Louis, the same amount and movement of capital implies an immensely greater production.

During 1872, in New York, eleven million shares of Pacific Mail Steamship stock changed hands. That is, fifty-five times the whole number of shares issued by the company were bought and sold during the year. The amount represented by these transactions alone was equal to one-half the national debt. Of Erie Railroad, six million shares were sold; as many of Western Union Telegraph and nearly as many of Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. It is not to be understood, however, that these transfers all actually took place. In fact a reliable commercial journal declares that nine-tenths of them were mere bets upon the rise or fall of the stocks, the loser paying the difference between the amount stipulated and the actual value of the stock upon the day of delivery. The brokerage on these transactions alone amounted to about $10,000,000. What a gigantic and costly squirrel-wheel movement ending in no public benefit whatever.

Our coal production in 1870 amounted to 32,860,690 tons, of which 28,448,793 tons were mined in Pennsylvania. Of the latter aggregate, 15,650,275 tons were anthracite and the remainder bituminous coal. The total value of the coal product was $73,524,992, of which $52,387,814 belongs to Pennsylvania. It is remarkable that while capital in this State nearly reproduces itself, that of Maryland produces only 10 per cent., that is, it takes an investment of $100 to produce $10 worth of coal in Maryland. The States next in order to Pennsylvania are, Illinois, 2,621,163 tons; Ohio, 2,527,285 tons; Maryland, 1,819,824 tons. Though other States have larger coal fields than Pennsylvania it will require a great effort and a great change of circumstances to enable them to compete with her.

The impetus given to commerce by the great international improvement, the Suez Canal, is enormous, especially in the India and China trade. Steamers now reach Calcutta from London in 30 days and expend 10 per cent. less coal than formerly. The multiplication of propellers which alone are available for the Suez Canal has rendered the transit to the great marts of Europe and America astonishingly rapid. A voyage now lasts but three-fourths of the time formerly required, which amounts to a saving of 45 per cent. in the stocks of goods in the mere ocean transit. The multiplication of railroads has also expedited the marketing of goods, effecting another wonderful saving of cost.

ALERT.

The *Phrenological Journal* for February comes out as fresh and vigorous as a crisp, seasonable, and in all respects salutary stock of reading matter can make a magazine. Opening its leaves, we find a good sketch and portrait of the regretted Norman McLeod, D. D.; also Speculative Non-Philosophy; What do We Live For? The Man of Three Dreams, especially notable now that his nephew the ex-Emperor is dead; Natural Death; American Shad Culture; Daniel Fox, the centenarian farmer; Classes of Society; Clara Louise Kellogg; Christian Charity; Harvey Prindle Peet, LL.D., the eminent instructor of Deaf-mutes; Is Phrenology Dead? to which we respectfully answer, we think not; Rotation in Office; The Horse and Civilization; Early Mexican History, etc. Price as usual, 30 cents, or $3 a year. We notice that the publisher offers a premium of a new chromo to new subscribers who send 30 cts. extra for postage and mounting. S. R. Wells, Publisher, 389 Broadway, N. Y.

Among other unwise and impracticable schemes suggested for the settlement of the Louisiana trouble is one for the holding of a new State election. At this season of the year no greater evil could befall us, and we are glad to say the plan seems in all probability likely to be defeated. The excitements of a campaign would take the laborers from their work upon the plantations, and thus strike a blow at the interests of the planters, and, through them, the material prosperity of the whole people of the State, that it would take years of industry to recover from. None but political adventurers, who have nothing to lose but every thing to gain, can sincerely desire a new election at this time.

THE GEN. R. E. LEE MONUMENT.—The grand monument to the memory of Gen'l Lee is now rapidly being constructed under the direction and skill of Prof. Volentine. And in order to complete it at the earliest possible day, the Executive Committee of the Lee Memorial Association of Lexington, Va., which is composed of such distinguished men as Gen'l Pendleton, Gen'l Terry, Hon. Wm. McLaughlin, Col. Preston Johnston, Chas. Davidson, and others, have authorized the publication and sale of a perfect *life size* steel engraved portrait of Gen'l Lee. The proceeds of its sale to be applied in furtherance of the object of this Association, namely: to the erection of a monument to the memory of Gen'l R. E. Lee, at the Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. The portrait will be sold only by subscription, through regular authorized agents. Every subscriber for the portrait will receive a certificate signed by the Secretary and Chairman of the Lee Memorial Association. We commend this portrait to the public, and hope some good energetic man will secure the agency in this section in order to help on the good work. Messrs. R. L. DeLea & Co., No. 112 Camp street, New Orleans, have been constituted and appointed General Agents for the State of Louisiana and any communications addressed to them for circulars, terms, and certificates, will receive prompt attention.

Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that on the 17th, 18th and 19th days of February, 1873, I will attend at the Post-Office, on Mississippi street, between the hours of 8 to 10 A. M. and from 3 to 5 P. M., to assess the property in the first, second and third wards, at which time and place all persons are required to give in their assessment of property.

F. FOBB, Assessor.

Donaldsonville, La., Feb. 6th, 1873.

Sale of Ferries.

PUBLIC notice is hereby given that, by virtue of the power in me vested, I will proceed to sell, on

Monday, March 3rd, 1873,

at 11 o'clock A. M., at the Court-House, in the town of Donaldsonville, to the highest bidder, the farm of the parish ferries for the current year.

WM. KENNER,
President Police Jury.

Parish of Ascension, January 25th, 1873.