

The literary columns of Eastern papers contain elaborate and commendatory reviews of Mr. Ignatius Donnelly's new book, "Ragnarok; The Age of Fire and Gravel."

The state commissioner of railroads for Michigan, in his report for the year 1881, just published, expresses the belief that the result of State supervision of railroads and freight rates has proven itself of great value, not only to the public at large, but to the railroad corporations also.

At the recent examination at the London University for the degree of Bachelor of Arts sixteen out of twenty-two lady candidates passed the ordeal, and only ninety men out of two hundred and fifteen male applicants were passed to the degree. The average age of the ladies was less than that of the men.

The Toronto Globe, noting that Canada's trade with the United States amounted to \$73,000,000 during the year ending June 30, 1881, while the aggregate trade of Mexico with us reached only \$28,000,000, suggests that since our government is willing to discuss reciprocity with Mexico, Canada should not hesitate about negotiating such a treaty with the states, if it is possible.

Congress is buckling down to work in commendable style, whatever may be thought of the outcome. The members seem to have learned something of the sentiment since the close of the last session and begin to realize that the eyes of their masters are upon them. It is probable that more good, solid, useful work will be done in the short session of three months than in the two years preceding.

The state of Texas has over \$1,000,000 in the Treasury, drawing no interest. The public debt is about \$5,000,000, chiefly in bonds, which are not redeemable except at the option of the holder until maturity. Gov. Roberts went upon the market a few months ago and tried to buy up some of them, but was asked 140, and only found a few even at the fancy figure. Were the bonds redeemable at all the state would have been out of debt to-day.

In the principal towns of Switzerland gratuitous public lectures are delivered on agriculture and its kindred sciences during the winter months. The results have proved highly practical and the lectures are well attended. When farmers' institutes become permanently established in all the States we shall accomplish this desirable work in a much better and more popular manner, for at these meetings the farmers themselves come in for a fair share of the talk, and their experiences are of incomparable value.

According to good authority, whether as a guesser or otherwise—the grand total of eggs annually consumed in the United States aggregates in value the sum of \$75,000,000. The same authority estimates the value of the egg consumption of New York city at \$18,000,000. No estimates are made of other cities, but they are grouped in the grand total. The grand aggregate is too large or the total in New York is too small. It is absurd to suppose that New York city consumes nearly one fourth of the product of all the hens in the country. To put it in another way, one million people cannot eat one-fourth as many as fifty millions.

Mr. Giffen, a noted British statistician, is fascinated by the growth of the United States. In a recent address in London he points out that our population has risen in a hundred years from three to fifty million; that is to say, that it has during that time multiplied itself sixteen times, or doubled itself every twenty-five years. At the like rate of increase it would reach in another century, the unheard of total of 500,000,000; but fortunately for itself and for the world, there are good reasons why it should not proceed in quite that ratio. Still, it must increase rapidly, till the conditions of life have found an equilibrium and the comparative ease of living in the old and new world has become fairly equalized.

In the report of an exploration made by himself of parts of the territories of Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana, Gen. Sheridan takes occasion to enter a strong protest against the renting of the private parties of the Yellowstone Park. He says the place is worthy of being a National park, and that the government should retain not only the property, but should make and control all improvements regarded as necessary. He thinks that the leasing of a park is likely to involve the government's right to the property eventually; that parties once in possession and making money out of the property will manage to raise claims and establish conditions which it will be hard for the government and the courts to shake off. Gen. Sheridan also informs the war department that the game in the park is being ruthlessly slaughtered for the sake of the skins. He recommends that the park be extended eastward by the addition of 3,444 square miles and appeals to all sportsmen and sportsmen's clubs in the country to aid in inducing congress to make this extension. He declares that if he is authorized to do so he will engage to keep "skin-hunters" (those who kill game only out of the park by the use of troops. It is to be hoped that this authority will be conferred upon him. Then the wild game, with that instinct for self-preservation they possess, will in time drift into the lines of the park, because within there they will be less hunted. Besides its other attractions, the park will then have that of containing and preserving fine specimens of wild American game.

At Altoona, Pa., Parks Lemaire and his two sisters, Flora and Alice, were killed on the railway at Upton station, two miles east of that city. They were returning home from a prayer meeting and walking on the track. They stepped off to avoid a passing train, and in so doing were run down by an engine on another track. All were young and unmarried.

NEWS CONDENSED.

RAILROAD RUMBLINGS.

Ex-President Rice of the Utica, Ithaca & Elmira railway, under arrest in New York, charged with having perjured himself in a suit of \$25,000, which should have been cancelled, pleads that he did so with the knowledge of the directors, but the court holds him to his oath, and the same, and might supplement the admission by giving the court the directors, an explanation from them might show some light on the subject.

The Holman resolution, calling for a statement of patents issued to land grant railroads, has been passed by the house. The attorneys for the Northern Pacific railroad claim that, having obtained its patents, it is not bound to give up the same if the terms of the charter have not been technically complied with.

WASHINGTON NEWS NOTES.

There appears to be some hitch about the resignation of Capt. H. H. Crews. A short time ago irregularities were discovered in his accounts, and it was stated by prominent army officers that he was guilty of other violations of army regulations, which, if made the subject of an examination by court-martial, would result in his being cashiered. He was given the option of resigning, and he did so, but shortly afterwards Capt. Crews has concluded to stand a court-martial, having withdrawn his resignation, and it is stated by prominent army officers that he is guilty of other violations of army regulations, which, if made the subject of an examination by court-martial, would result in his being cashiered.

The White House, under the artistic supervision of Louise C. Tiffany, son of the great New York jeweller, has been much improved. The great East-room has been elegantly re-fitted, and the marble mantelpiece replaced by others of carved wood. The pictures, the lampshades, the curtains, the upholstery of the furniture are of old-school brocade, tinted with a golden brown. The furniture is of the same material, and the magnificent parlor resembles the drawing-room of a great mansion. The cabin of a steamship, which it has for some years past rivalled in appearance.

The senate committee to investigate internal revenue collections in the Sixth North Carolina district finished their labors Nov. 30, and will be able to report next week. The committee has examined the returns of the distillers and distilleries in a majority of the cases investigated. In many cases it has found that the distillers have evaded only one-half the revenue to which it was entitled, and fully one-third of the whiskey manufactured paid no tax at all. There are many distillers in the district who are evading 57 per cent. of the collections to pay them.

The representatives of state and other boards of health now in session in Washington, have addressed a letter to the National board of health, pointing out the necessity for an efficient sanitary inspection of immigrants as a means of preventing the spread of small pox in the United States. The board is asked not only to have a careful inspection made at ports of entry, but that it be continued along the line of travel at points already established. Twenty-five hundred dollars is deemed sufficient for this service for the present season.

Rep. Wellbaum, a Russian gentleman from Alaska, expresses the belief that Lieut. De Long was lost by reason of his ignorance of the proper methods of Arctic exploration, which he exemplified by killing his dogs. By this he deprived himself of his last hope, as the dogs if spared would have materially assisted not only in the transportation of the party, but in the finding of a route by which the party could be rescued from among those icy waters.

The river and harbor bill men propose to take the engineer's estimates and go right on and make up another appropriation bill. Senator Kellogg is reported to have said that the committee would not report on the Mississippi river and the Potomac falls would be prepared regardless of the river and harbor bill.

Representative Deuster, who succeeded last year in passing through the house a bill to prohibit the government from purchasing tobacco, is introducing a similar bill to regulate this matter on railroads.

Telegrams are still coming in from all parts of the country urging members of congress to see to it that a bill for a tobacco rebate is passed at this session.

CASUALTIES OF THE WEEK.

Kansas City Special: A most disastrous fire took place near the state line in West Kansas City, recently. The fire communicated from sparks thrown out by a Missouri Pacific engine. The depot was almost entirely destroyed, and three bodies stolen. Two were unearthed and carried off at Chambly. This evening the news comes from the Oak Indian reservation that a party of men, who had been in the area, had been killed and mutilated. The bodies were found and sent to the hospital. The bodies were found and sent to the hospital.

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A bill was introduced by Mr. Peck providing political assessments. Mr. Pendleton spoke in favor of the bill, making a partisan speech. He was replied to by Messrs. Allison and Sherman in the same spirit. A large number of amendments were introduced by Mr. Allison. The senate confirmed the appointment of Edward M. Cheney, United States attorney for the northern districts of Florida. Register of land offices: Francis Atkinson, Indiana, at Helena, M. T.; Charles Alexander, Wisconsin, at Tucson, A. T.; James L. Luse, Indiana, at Deadwood, Dak. Postmasters: Shepley, at Corning, Iowa; C. F. Hendrix, Sank County, Minn.; Charles Mather, Hastings, Minn.; Delos Jackson, Crookston, Minn.; Maggie Barlow, Sanford, Dak.; Charles A. Koyse, Lake Geneva, Wis.; Benjamin F. Bryant, La Crosse, Wis.; Nathan Cole, Sheboygan, Wis.; Willard Jones, Neenah, Wis.; Robert S. McMichael, Viroqua, Wis.; David G. James, Richland County, Wis.

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DAKOTA NEWS.

The Yankton County Business.

The Dakota delegation on the debt of Yankton county were before the sub-committee of the senate committee on Territories having charge of Dakota affairs. Gov. Ordway, a member of the delegation, made an argument in behalf of the memorial recently presented to congress. A bill was agreed upon by the sub-committee and will be reported to the full committee. It provides for the issuance of a 1-2 per cent. bond for the territory, and the county officers shall take up the outstanding indebtedness of the county. It describes the bonds and coupons in detail and makes them payable at the Chemical National bank, New York city. It also provides that in case the county officers shall fail to assess a tax sufficient to meet the requirements of the bonds and sinking fund and pay the coupons, it shall be the duty of the auditor of the Territory and the Territory's contribution board to take up the outstanding indebtedness of the county. It describes the bonds and coupons in detail and makes them payable at the Chemical National bank, New York city. It also provides that in case the county officers shall fail to assess a tax sufficient to meet the requirements of the bonds and sinking fund and pay the coupons, it shall be the duty of the auditor of the Territory and the Territory's contribution board to take up the outstanding indebtedness of the county.

The question of the admission of the southern half of Dakota was informally discussed and the committee seem pretty confident that if the enabling act for the admission of southern Dakota as a state, leaving northern Dakota as a territory, is first brought forward with the proper amendments in the senate, it will pass that body and have a fair chance of passing the house. The sentiment seems to be that anything is to be done about division it ought to be done at the same time with admission. The republicans seem to be united in this view. The political aspect of the question is not so clear to the public. It is said that Vice President Davis prefers to vote for a bill to admit the southern half, leaving the northern half a territory, rather than bring up the enabling act for the admission of the whole state. It is said that the bill will be considered ahead of the admission bill, and entirely independent of it.

The Turtle Mountain Indians.

Little Shell and his band of Turtle Mountain Chippewas had another interview with the secretary of the interior. Mr. Teller again told them that they had no claim to the Turtle Mountain country. He had examined the question very carefully, and had traced the title back 200 years, and could find that this same band had no more title to it than other Chippewas, because they can claim only under tribal title of immemorial occupancy. The secretary, however, said he was willing to have set apart by executive order a township near the British border for their occupancy until such time as they had selected a title upon which should be restored to the public domain. This reservation would consist of about 25,000 acres, and would be sufficient for their use for many years. We'll go home just the same. Few persons doubt that the regular holiday week yet to be taken.

SENATE.—Mr. Sherman, from the finance committee, presented a substitute to the house bill on the same subject, extending for two years the whisky bonded period. The bill amending the act to repeal discriminating duties on goods produced east of the Cape of Good Hope passed. The diplomatic appropriation bill (\$1,316,750) was reported.

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The old Michigan capital at Lansing burned Sunday.

GENERAL NEWS IN BRIEF. Reading, Pa., Special: An unusual excitement was produced in court to-day when the famous John Henry, who is well off, brought his three daughters into court as the plaintiffs in three separate actions for breach of promise of marriage. The weeping victims are blonde and fashionable beauties. The bridegrooms are Messrs. Amanda and Amelia, were once betrothed with. The defendants are Edwin Reitz and Monroe Leiby, cousins of Lehigh county. The latter claims several thousand dollars damages. The court room was crowded and the three girls were the center of attraction.

There will apparently be no lack of volunteers from the rank and file in the projected campaign of Dakota to take part in the department of the interior, which is now being organized by the late General Sherman. The party at Lady Franklin's bay, in the Arctic regions. Although Gen. Terry's circular on the subject was sent out only a few days ago, and but one or two parties have been heard from several applications have been received and placed on file. Among others, Lieut. E. A. Garlington, Seventh infantry, has volunteered his services, and put in an

DAKOTA NEWS.

The Yankton County Business.

The Dakota delegation on the debt of Yankton county were before the sub-committee of the senate committee on Territories having charge of Dakota affairs. Gov. Ordway, a member of the delegation, made an argument in behalf of the memorial recently presented to congress. A bill was agreed upon by the sub-committee and will be reported to the full committee. It provides for the issuance of a 1-2 per cent. bond for the territory, and the county officers shall take up the outstanding indebtedness of the county. It describes the bonds and coupons in detail and makes them payable at the Chemical National bank, New York city. It also provides that in case the county officers shall fail to assess a tax sufficient to meet the requirements of the bonds and sinking fund and pay the coupons, it shall be the duty of the auditor of the Territory and the Territory's contribution board to take up the outstanding indebtedness of the county. It describes the bonds and coupons in detail and makes them payable at the Chemical National bank, New York city. It also provides that in case the county officers shall fail to assess a tax sufficient to meet the requirements of the bonds and sinking fund and pay the coupons, it shall be the duty of the auditor of the Territory and the Territory's contribution board to take up the outstanding indebtedness of the county.

The question of the admission of the southern half of Dakota was informally discussed and the committee seem pretty confident that if the enabling act for the admission of southern Dakota as a state, leaving northern Dakota as a territory, is first brought forward with the proper amendments in the senate, it will pass that body and have a fair chance of passing the house. The sentiment seems to be that anything is to be done about division it ought to be done at the same time with admission. The republicans seem to be united in this view. The political aspect of the question is not so clear to the public. It is said that Vice President Davis prefers to vote for a bill to admit the southern half, leaving the northern half a territory, rather than bring up the enabling act for the admission of the whole state. It is said that the bill will be considered ahead of