

The National Republican

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Auction Sales: FUTURE DAYS: BY DEPENDABLE TRUSTEES: stock contained in store corner of Broadway and Eleventh st., N. Y.

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1884.

The great steamer Bear has reached the first station on her voyage of mercy in safety. She arrived at St. John's, N. F., at midnight on Thursday night, having been delayed in the passage by adverse gales.

It is now given out that the Pennsylvania Railroad company is about to become the absolute owner of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago railroad, which has been under its control for the past twenty-five or thirty years.

A good heavy rain is greatly desired in Pennsylvania, New York, and Michigan to put out the forest fires. Large areas of woodland are being burned over in the Catskills and in the Highlands in New York, in Schuylkill and Northumberland counties, Pennsylvania, and in the great hemlock forests on the upper waters of the west branch of the Susquehanna.

The heaven of liberalism which has wrought such marvelous results in Virginia is working in North Carolina. Hon. Tyro York, member of congress from the seventh North Carolina district, was nominated for governor yesterday by a convention in which all the opposition elements were represented.

OUTSIDE of the constitutional question involved, the main objection to the pleura-pneumonia bill, which has passed both houses of congress and is now awaiting the concurrence of the house on a senate amendment, is founded upon the apprehension that the powers which it confers on the commissioner of agriculture might be used so as to embarrass the cattle trade.

The experience of the present year tends to confirm the very general belief that the snow fall protects the wheat during the winter. In the middle states the fields were covered with snow during January, February, and a part of March, and when the snow melted the wheat looked green and vigorous.

The senate has devoted the morning hour for two successive days to the discussion of a bill to pay Gen. Isaac H. Trimble some six thousand dollars for the use of patent truss, of which he was the owner, in building the Long Bridge. This is an old claim, and every time it comes up for consideration some fact drops out that gives it a set back.

There was not much snow in Virginia, and in some localities the wheat was injured by the frost, and the crop suffered in most of the southern states from the same cause. The lowest reading of the thermometer at Atlanta was 2 degrees below zero. This would have been considered very cold weather at Washington, where the lowest point reached by the mercury was 1.7 degrees above zero, a difference of nearly 3 degrees in favor of the latitude.

California expects to produce a great crop. The winter was favorable, and rains were frequent. There is one danger to be passed which may blight the hopes of the farmers. In May and June winds from the north frequently sweep down the great central valley and deprive the ground of all moisture just when the maturing wheat needs it most.

The Hessian fly has made its appearance in a few counties in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, but the area of its ravages is restricted. Some damage has also been done

by the fly in West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The complaints of losses by the fly that have reached the agricultural department this year are few compared with some former years. Taking the whole country over, the prospect of a good wheat crop is highly favorable.

AMUSEMENTS. THE NATIONAL "DESIREE." The second performance of Sousa and Taber's opera, "Desiree," was given at the National theater last night, and was an improvement on that of the previous night. The principals had become more familiar with their lines and there were fewer hitches in the action. Nearly every number was encored. The finale of the last act was obliged to be repeated and the principals were called before the curtain. The opera will be presented at the matinee to-day, and to-night will be its final representation here.

Striking Near Home. Mr. McCooms, representative from the sixth Maryland district, in his speech against the Morrison tariff bill on Thursday, directed attention to a feature of the bill which affects a very important local interest. The bill proposes to put bituminous coal on the free list. It is now protected by a duty of 75 cents per ton. Anthracite coal is almost exclusively used for household purposes, except in the region where bituminous coal is mined, and upon this there is no duty.

The plea that the removal of the duty from bituminous coal will give the people cheap fuel is utterly fallacious. Where bituminous coal is used for domestic purposes, it is already so cheap to the consumer that nobody feels the burden of the tariff. Removing the duty (which amounts to about 21 per cent. ad valorem) will not benefit the home consumer to any appreciable extent, but it will work great injury to the miner. His labor represents 60 per cent. of the cost of a ton of coal at the mine. The loss of 21 per cent. will be borne by the miner and the mine owner in the proportion of 14 to 10, leaving out the fractions. It is a very serious business to the miner to have 14 per cent. knocked off his wages at one fell swoop.

The effect of a reduction of 21 per cent. in the price of coal in the Cumberland mining region will be most disastrous. It will practically close up the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. At the present rates the boatmen can barely make a living, and the canal tows are hardly sufficient to keep the work in good repair, to say nothing of the stockholders, who have given up all hope of getting any return for their investment. Georgetown and Alexandria are the depots at which the Cumberland coal is delivered by the canal boats, and from these ports it is sent in vessels to the points where it is consumed.

The freight on a ton of coal by canal to Georgetown at present is about 90 cents. The boatmen have been striking against this figure as being too low to permit them to make a living. After the selling price has been reduced 24 per cent., what will become of the boatmen who are now unable to maintain themselves at existing rates? They will simply be obliged to desert the canal and go into some other business that promises to be more remunerative. Who will say that Georgetown, Washington, and Alexandria would not be greatly injured by the closing of the canal?

The Wheat Prospect. Mr. J. R. Dodge, statistician of the agricultural department, in his report for April, fixes the area of winter wheat at about 27,000,000 acres, which is an increase of between 5 and 6 per cent. over the area harvested last year. This is an increase of more than 2,000,000 acres over the area reported in the census of 1880. The gain is mainly on the Pacific coast and in the southern states. It is a very hopeful sign for the south that the wheat and corn area is constantly growing.

The Jeannette Investigation. Before the Jeannette investigating committee yesterday morning, Mr. Melville, acting permission to correct a certain part of his testimony which was read. The correction consisted in the statement that while in the ten-day camp Mr. Melville recommended that the course of the retreat be changed to the westward, and that he should have been permitted to retreat toward the Lena River. Mr. Melville said nothing further on the subject.

PERSONAL. Ex-Congressman Niblack, of Vincennes, Ind., is in the city for a few days. Mr. Currier, of Bangor, Maine, is visiting his daughter, Mrs. L. A. Wood, of this city. A. Van Bergen, of Chicago, is in the city. A. B. Johnson, of New York, is in the city. A. B. Johnson, of New York, is in the city.

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STATUS OF THE TARIFF BILL. The status of a compromise between the friends and opponents of the Morrison tariff bill is as follows: For some days there has been talk of a compromise between the friends of the Morrison tariff bill and its opponents in the democratic party, by which, in view of certain concessions to be made to the wool interests, the vote of the wool men should be given in favor of the amended Morrison bill.

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MANAGER KINLEY'S BENEFIT. Miss Leslie Evans, a young lady who, within the past two years, has made rapid strides in the dramatic profession, will appear at the National theater next week in "Foggy Perry," a play in which she has been remarkably successful. The performance on Monday night will be for the benefit of Manager Kinley, and, as his friends are legion, it is safe to predict that they will give him a bumper.

MISS HARVEY'S CONCERT. A testimonial concert will be given by the Misses Harvey at the Congregational church on Monday night. These young ladies are both accomplished vocalists, and they will be assisted by Miss Eva Mills, Mrs. A. C. Powell, Miss Ida K. Hind, Miss Mamie Simons, Messrs. Warren S. Young, Frank Baxter, Frank D. Maltby, and Prof. Bischoff.

A TARIFF SUBSTITUTE. A Bill Which Mr. Converse Proposes to Take the Place of the Morrison Tariff. Representative George L. Converse, of Ohio, has introduced a bill which is intended to be an amendment or substitute for the Morrison tariff bill. The features of the proposed measure or amendment are as follows: The wool duties of 1867 are to be restored except as to carpet wools, which are to be placed on the free list with some twenty other articles. The metal schedule is to be abolished, and the duties on metals are to be increased on a few others. The tobacco internal tax is to be abolished, and the proceeds of the tax are to be used to manufacture free of tax. Manufacturers who manufacture for export are to receive a rebate on the duties paid on the raw materials. A reduction of 10 per cent. is to be made in favor of goods imported in American bottoms, and a reduction of 10 per cent. is to be made in favor of goods imported in American bottoms, and a reduction of 10 per cent. is to be made in favor of goods imported in American bottoms.

Indian Territory Lands. The bill introduced in the senate yesterday by Mr. Morrill provides for the opening to homestead settlement of certain portions of the Indian territory, provides that the lands in the Indian territory ceded by the Creek tribe of Indians by the treaty of 1866, and the lands ceded by the Seminole tribe by the treaty of 1866, except such as have been granted to other Indian tribes by act of congress, be opened to homestead settlement by executive order, shall be set apart for entry under the homestead laws, and the proceeds of the land shall be used to the Atlantic and Pacific Railway company by the act of July, 1866, as if within the Indian territory, and the lands reserved to the public domain by the act of July, 1866, shall be empowered to reduce the limits of any reservation established by executive order, in the Indian territory, within the limits of the excess of the necessities and rights of the Indians occupying the same, and that lands thus taken out of the limits of any reservation shall be opened to settlement under the homestead laws; that he shall be authorized to remove the Indians of the Indian territory, and the lands reserved to the public domain by the act of July, 1866, shall be empowered to reduce the limits of any reservation established by executive order, in the Indian territory, within the limits of the excess of the necessities and rights of the Indians occupying the same, and that lands thus taken out of the limits of any reservation shall be opened to settlement under the homestead laws.

MINISTER FOSTER SHOWS THAT HE ARE ENTIRELY UNSATISFIED BY FACTS. Mr. Foster, minister to Spain, returned to Washington yesterday from a visit to his home in Indiana. His attention being called to the charges of Gen. Badaea, late consul general at Havana, against the state department, he stated that so far as they related to the recent commercial treaty negotiated at Madrid for the Venezuelan trade Gen. Badaea was entirely unsatisfied by the facts. He says that the stipulations in the treaty which relate to the duties on iron were to go into effect on March 1, but that a crisis in the Spanish ministry occurred before that time, and that the treaty was never put into operation, providing for putting into operation at the time named the articles which the two governments had agreed to accept. He says that the agreement is substantially the same as the original one.

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