THE
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OREGON, MO.

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OREGON, MO.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1881.

The Cincinnatti Southern railroad is to be helped to the sea by completing the Blue Ridge route, thus reducing the distance from the South Carolina coast to Chicago by at least 200 miles.

Hundreds of thousands of cattle are perishing out west for the want of food and water. It is estimated by cattle men that 50 per cent at least will have have died before April next.

Thousands of bushels of oysters have been destroyed dy the cold of this winter—drought in streams and ice both being fatal to them. Hence they will rule at higher rates in the market for a time.

Governor Foster of Ohio will doubtless be Garfield's postmaster-general—if he wants to. And, if he don't want to, his sisters, cousins, uncles and his aunts will make him want to. Ditto will tens of thousands af his Ohio friends.

On Wednesday the electoral vote for President and Vice President was formally counted in the presence of both Houses of Congress, and James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur duly declared elected President and Vice President, respectively, for four years from the 4th day of March, 1881.

The lower house at Jefferson City decided that the State could not go $9,630 more for the State University. This would require a contribution of nearly half a cent from each of the inhabitants of the State, and while it was supposed that the Republicans would be able to meet this additional burden of expense, it was doubted whether the Democrats could do it.—[Globe-Democrat, 9th.

While some people are trying to introduce Prohibition in Missouri, Ohio, which has tried it for nearly 30 years, is giving it up and adopting license. We happen to know that the saloon keepers in the state of Ohio, generally, dread the license plan and prefer prohibation. Odd, ain't it? These extremely virtuous citizens prefer severest measures against the liquor traffic!!

It is proposed to establish a Postal Telegraph System by government, the rates to be fixed by law not to exceed 20 cents for each message of 20 words or less, and one cent for each word in addition. Good! This is the beginning of the end to be made to monopoly. The next thing to be done is to establish government R. R. lines to keep down monopoly there. Again, it should be made a high crime to buy up articles of necessity for purposes of speculating. There are persons who we money to injure mankind, and do injure them, just as much as if they took clubs and beat them. People are ruined, starved and tormented by this class of speculators.

Down with 'em.

THE politicians and newspapers are having their last word about the speakership defore the adjournment of their congress. Kasson of Iowa is undoubtedly the biggest man in the race, whether he is the leading candidate or not. He is a native of Vermont, and began national service as assistant postmaster-general in 1861, since which he has served in four congresses and on two foreign missions, one being for the postal service. In length of service and breadth of view he overlaps all the other candidates. Against him, Hiscock of New York, an able lawyer and pushing politician, is making a sedulous canvass. If Frye of Maine should fail of a senatorship he would like it: if he should get the senatorship, Reed of the same state would lay claim to the speaker's chair.

MODREN MIRACLES.

There are now about 90 thousand miles of Railway operated in the United States. On several parts of each road trains are always running. On every road, at points not exceeding 30 miles from each other, trains are running from or toward others. Therefore there are three thousand locomotives, with long lines of cars following, ever on the track, speeding along at the rate of 20 miles per hour, a safe estimate, and this will make it that 60 thousand miles are traveled every hour of the day, or one thousand miles every minute. Just think of it! For every minute passed in the 24 hours one thousand miles are traveled by locomotives on the railroads in the United States.

Every night and every morning on all the great lines of railway long lines of passenger trains are starting from the great terminal points. Think how on every night, at about seven or eight o'clock, from every important starting point in all the States and Territories the lightning mail or fast express trains are putting out, bound for points hundreds, sometimes thousands of miles off, crowded with passengers, some lively and jocose in the smoking or reclining chair cars, others sedate and silent in the melancholy looking sleepers. Think how during all the long dark hours of night these trains are being hurled as it were across the bridges of mighty streams, through the long dark tunnels, along the boundless prairies of

"the vast, illimitable changing west,"

through the deep gloom of grand old forests, along the banks of running streams, down in deep cuts where Alpine heights rise sheer above or mid way oetween heaven and earth on ways blasted out from the eternal hills—puff—puff—puff—toot—toot—toot—with a rush as of awful cyclones and a roar as of thundering tempests away they go—on—on—forever on. And if, at any time, along these thousands of miles of dark and lonesome ways a rock should fall, or tree; or a bank cave in or a tunnel; land might slide or a culbert wash out, or any one of a hundred mischances happen, such as a rail to break or spread or axle snap, think of the possibly awful consequences. And then wonder that, as morning breaks these thousands of cars are safely coming into their depots—throughout the livelong night, along these countless miles, not a single accident has happened! That is to us, the most wonderful reflection of all.

BRUTALITY.

In one respect our civilization is far behind the age—yes, shamefully so—as all will admit on calm reflection, and that is in relation to the execution of capital convicts, by hanging. Can anything more brutal, more rude, more horrible be imagined? Yet we are used to the idea and we submit to it just as we would if burning, disembowelling, or blowing up or poisoning were the customary way of executing the condemned. Crucifying or impaling alive would be more becoming even if more cruel, than this strangling our fellow creatures at a ropes end. Talk as we will, the object of punishment is to prevent the convicted from repeating the offence; and that is all.

Why not behead, or shoot; or chloroform, or bleed to death?

Let us be reasonable and put an end to this remnant of savagery. Gov Long of Massachusetts recommends the use of morphine or chloral hydrate; we would suggest an electrical shock and then immersion for a few hours under water. To say that "it does not matter how this thing is done" is the same as to say, "it matters not how anything is done." And that won't do, you know.

IT WILL NOT DO.

What right has any person to denounce any considerable body of people for opinions or customs adhered to by them? What right has he to try to get laws made to prohibit or restrain them? We refer to opinions or customs long established. He has the right to persuade them they are doing or acting wrong. He has no right to attempt more. We believe in the temperance cause. But this effort to legislate and force people into measures we will oppose.

Enact a Prohibitary Statute for Missouri and what are you doing in effect?

You are announcing to thousands of your fellow citizens occupying large districts, whole ranges of counties in fact, that they shall no longer drink and eat as they have been accustomed—they and their forefathers from immemmoral time. You tell them that if they persist in doing so they will be criminals! Liable to inditement, fine, imprisonment. We say, not only was there never a greater absudity enacted by Legislation, but never was there a more wicked act of despotism. Let us look things square in the face. The State of Missouri can no more venture to enforce such legislation as Maine enforces, than can the regulation of a Sunday school room be applied to New York.

SENSIBLE.

A sensible proposal comes from an Ohio paper to abolish the A. M. and P. M. foolishness and count the hours from 1 to 24; thus calling 1 o'clock P. M. 13 o'clock. For instance the teacher will say "school is dismissed! You will be here at 14 o'clock precisely," i. e two P. M.; the Preacher will announce that "services will be held in this church, beginning at 19 o'clock this evening," and the judge will say "Prisoner! You will be taken to the place of execution on Friday, March 4th between the hour of 10 and 16, then and there be hung by the neck until you are dead."

WONDERFUL FACT.

The Rev. Mr. Cuyler of Brooklyn, New York, says in the Independent published in the last week of January, that, "the number of Presbyterian congregations in the United States is 5,400 and the number of new members added to that church last year is 4,200—less than one apiece, and that this fact is is appalling." He also avows that "if the real facts were known, many other churches have done little better."

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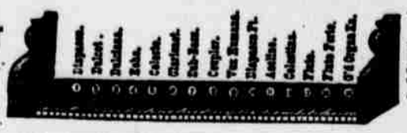

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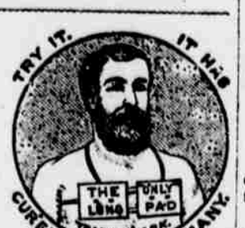

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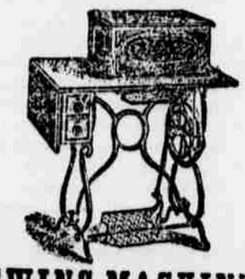

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