

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Mr. Seward has introduced a bill into Congress on this subject, of which the following is a synopsis:—

1. It throws open the building of the road to any company chartered by any State. It stipulates for sealed proposals from all such, and proposes to give the construction to that company which will build it for the least sum in the way of aid from the government; that rate to be afforded in 5 per cent stock, redeemable after 20 years at the pleasure of the Government.

2. The company to own and manage the road under certain conditions. These are:—That the government may take possession of it at any time by paying the company its expenditure upon the road, with 10 per cent interest on the investment; and 2nd, That Congress may control the affairs so far as to keep the net income down to 10 per cent; and 3rd, That the rates of the transportation of the mails and of troops, military stores, and other things for the government, shall be established by the Secretary of War.

3. The company undertaking the construction of the road, are to lodge five millions of dollars in the hands of the government, in the form of State Government Stocks, by way of security for the fulfilment of its contract.

4. No grants of lands are to be made to the company beyond a strip sufficient for a road way.

5. The road is to be built north of the parallel of 40°—to be commenced within 18 months from the date of the contract for its construction, and be completed, equipped, and put in operation within five years.

6. The company is to be bound to expend a million of dollars on the road at the start, before receiving any portion of its bonus. It is then to be entitled to such a proportion of the entire sum the government proposes to furnish, as its own expenditure bears to the contemplated cost of the entire road. In other words, government will pay no faster than the company. The expenditure of each will go along pari passu.

7. The various stations are to be fixed upon by the Secretary of War, and the village and city plots to be laid off and thrown open to public competition. All lands lying within six miles of the road are to be advanced to \$2.50 per acre, and all lying beyond that limit and within 12 miles are to be fixed at \$1.75. These are the main features of the plan.

The New York Tribune in commenting on this bill remarks:—

Mr. Seward's bill resolutely shuts the door against plundering and bargaining of all sorts in this vast and important work, and puts every man and every company disposed to embark in earnest in the construction of the Pacific Road on a footing of perfect equality.

It avoids the mischief and evils that would result from making the company constructing the road the holders of the only valuable land along its route. It extinguishes all monopoly features of an offensive character, and yet it confers every power necessary to the full and complete achievement of the enterprise. The fact that Mr. Seward's bill makes no gigantic land monopoly of the company, but withholds the territory along which the road passes for actual settlers at fixed and moderate prices, is a most commendable and important feature of it. The Bill thus offers a solution of two difficult points in the great railroad problem. It presents in the first place a plain method of building the road without danger of committing the government to untold expenditure, and in the second it secures the road without thereby creating a great land monopoly to sit like an incubus and ride the country. As regards the route this must depend upon the bearing of the accumulating information from the various exploring parties, and the results of scientific surveys yet to be made. Across the precipitous gorges of the Gila, favored by friends of a Southern line, it can never go. To the Texas route the insuperable objection lies that it makes the western terminus at San Diego, when the terminus must be at San Francisco, or farther north. But we do not enter upon the question of route as something inevitably fixed by Mr. Seward's bill. This question is not yet fully ready for settlement.—Colonist.

THE ENIGMA OF SWINDLING.

The Evil Effects of Spiritualism—Married Ladies Deceived, by the Mediums—Liberating Scenes at the Essex Police Court.

BEFORE JUSTICE WOOD.

There is a new system of swindling carried on extensively in this City, Brooklyn, and Wiltonburgh, by which numerous weak minded married ladies have (unknown to their husbands) been induced to expend large sums of money. One of the ladies thus deceived, who resides in Brooklyn, and is of one of the first families in the City of Churches, has appeared before Justice Wood, at the Essex Police Court, and with others of her sex, made a full exposure of the ingenious frauds. Yesterday the magistrate proceeded with a rigid inquiry into these high-handed schemes. It appears a colored man calling himself Dr. Wm. H. Harris, and living in First-street, professed to be a medium in spiritism and declared he could at any moment commune with spirits on any subject; also, that he was in possession of a bottle containing holy water, which he could touch, and with the announcement of presto change, would give to his applicants certain lottery numbers, which would draw prizes varying from £100, £150, £200, £400, turning up. In connection with this black fellow was associated a tall and genteel appearing individual named David G. Gompers, residing in Watt street, and also a colored woman in Thompson street, named Cole. The two former personages were taken into custody by officer Frank White of the Seventh Precinct District. From the affidavit Mrs. Mooner, as taken by Judge Wood, it seems that on or about the 5th

November last she was induced by some means or other to pay a visit to the African doctor, at his house, in the Upper part of our city, and being infatuated with the idea of making a speedy fortune, another meeting was agreed upon.

In the course of a few days the doctor called at the residence of the lady, in company with a white man, (Gompers,) whom he introduced as a southern gentleman, largely engaged in the lottery of New Jersey, Maryland and other States, and further stated he, (the white man,) could give the lady certain lottery numbers. This appeared to inspire Mrs. M., and the next question for her consideration was the associate medium, asking for an advance of £25 in cash. The representations appeared so flattering that the lady was prompted, and did pay the Comperets the twenty five pounds, and he alleged his "honor" to give the fair counterpart the numbers alluded to in the course of ten days. The stated time arrived, but no Mr. Lottery agent came forward to redeem his word, and Mrs. M. feeling worried concerning her one hundred dollars, she applied to Mrs. Thorne, of this City, one of her confidential friends, for assistance in the matter. They then went together, to trace out Comperets and a third interview was sought with Harris who, at one time, said "all would be right," and the next moment told the ladies he had not seen Comperets since they had.

The complainant here remarked "Do you think I'll get my money back?" to which he replied, "Oh yes! he is good! for I was introduced to him by Mr. Lewis, in Fulton-street." The parties now left quite contented, but Mrs. Thorne being determined to follow up the swindlers closely, she again went to Harris's house the next morning, and demanded to know "when Mrs. M. was going to get back her money?" and he solemnly promised it should be forthcoming in three days, or its equivalent in the lottery numbers spoken of. Of course the promises were all broken, and by the indefatigable exertions of Mr. N. B. Higgins, the whereabouts of Gompers was ferreted out and his arrest effected.

Does our climate get warmer? Is a question frequently asked. Being familiar with the Canadian climate we would answer that the only difference discernible by us, looking over a period of thirty years, is this: The Autumns used to be colder and shorter than they are now. In 1831 we find it noted in our diary kept at Branford, that from the 5th to the 11th September, very hard frosts occurred. For several years past frosts have not occurred, in the milder parts of Canada, until the last of the month. In the middle of October, 20 years ago, there was sometimes sleighing in the warmer parts of Upper Canada. November, from 1820 to 1835, used to be a cold freezing month, accompanied often by small snow storms. For many years past it has not been so. Our winters are also rather milder. The springs are about the same as they used to be. There is less thunder than formerly. It will be asked, "if so, what causes this?" We know of but one reasonable answer, and that is, the country is becoming more cleared, and thus opens a large surface of dry earth to the sun to imbibe heat, which, during the autumn and winter, expends its summer-imbibed heat, thus warming the air. The woods keep the earth cool—keep off the rays of the sun. When Upper Canada is generally cleared, its surface must imbibe more heat. This requires time to expend itself. Towards February it is much expended, leaving our spring cool as formerly. Whilst the summers grow cooler, or more even, in consequence of the freer circulation of the air. Clearing the country, too, with perhaps the extension of telegraph lines, will tend to equalize its electricity. Canada ought to be as warm as France. It is in a warmer latitude. As it becomes cleared up, its health will improve.—[Son of Temperance.]

ARRIVAL OF THE AFRICA.

THREE DAYS LATER NEWS.

New York, Dec. 30.

The Africa arrived at half-past ten this morning.

There is very little news from England.

Lord Palmerston has resigned his office of Home Secretary of State.

It leaves because he will not consent to the new Reform Bill which extends the Parliamentary Franchise. His resignation, the Times says, has no connexion with Eastern affairs, and will not alter in any way the policy of the Government.

From Turkey nothing new.

The naval battle at Sinope is confirmed.

The Turks lost only 11 ships, not 13, of which three were transports. The Russians lost seven ships.

The affair is not so disastrous to the Turks as at first reported.

The allied fleets are still in the Bosphorus. They have sent two steamers to the Black Sea, to enquire into the Sinope business.

There was a report of another defeat of the Turks on shore at Akalick, Armenia, with 4000 killed but no one believes it.

Several other defeats are reported, all equally doubtful.

There is no confirmation that Persia had declared war, but it was supposed to be true.

The Diplomats are still busy with their notes.

The armies on the Danube are in winter quarters. No hostilities.

Liverpool, Dec. 17.

Breadstuffs—The buoyant tone of the market is undiminished. Wheat and flour freely offered to arrive and find buyers at extreme rates. Prices closing at an advance on the week of 3s per bbl. on flour, and 6d for 70lbs. on wheat. Indian corn rather better and quoted by a few houses at 6d & 1s per quarter dearer.

THE VERY LATEST FROM EUROPE BY SUB-MARINE TELEGRAPH.

Paris, Dec. 16.

It is currently reported that the allied fleets have been ordered into the Black Sea.

BY TELEGRAPH FROM LONDON TO LIVERPOOL.

London, Saturday.

The Turkish Embassy have received advices of the Sinope engagement.

The Russians lost two of their largest ships. The town was totally destroyed.

The opinion very generally prevailed that Lord Palmerston did retire in consequence of Eastern politics.

Lord John Russell is spoken of as his successor. Lord Lansdowne is also expected to resign. Lord Palmerston and Fox Maule have been sent for by the Cabinet.

Glasgow, Dec. 17.

The steamer Glasgow, while awaiting orders, came in collision with a loop of 41 tons, loaded with pig iron.

The sloop sunk, and several of the Glasgow men were thrown overboard and one was drowned. The Glasgow will sail to day or tomorrow.

EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE AT PORTSMOUTH.

The Authority of the Queen defied by a Russian Officer.

The public have been informed that the Russian frigates Aurora and Navarin have been allowed to visit Portsmouth harbor for purposes of repair. Some little time ago some of the sailors belonging to those ships had been compulsorily engaged, determined to take advantage of the immunity afforded to them by the laws of our free country, and to leave the service of the Czar. Accordingly, six of them having contrived to get on shore at Portsmouth, proceeded towards London, and having reached Guilford, where they were overtaken by an officer of the Russian frigate Aurora, accompanied by an English inspector of police, and were by their brought back by railway to Portsmouth. Here they were placed on board the English ship Victorious, that vessel having been placed at the disposal of the captain of the Aurora and crew, during the execution of the repairs required by their frigate. The deserters thus brought back were taken on board the Victorious, and as it is ascertained, were submitted there by the Russian officers to severe corporal punishment. Those infractions of the laws of England became known in London. Persons proceeded to Portsmouth to ascertain the circumstances of the case, and on their instructions an affidavit was made in due form, and a writ of Habeas Corpus was issued by Mr. Justice Wigham, directed to Rear Admiral Martin, the Admiral Superintendent of the Dockyard at Portsmouth, and as such commanding all the ships in ordinary in that harbor; to Capt. Edward Hinnton Scott, the captain of the Guardship of the Ordinary; to Capt. Ivan Nikolajewicz Ledoniew, commanding the Russian frigate Aurora, and to any other person having the custody of the sailors in question (their names being set out at length), commanding them in the name of the Queen of England to have the bodies of the said sailors immediately before the Lord Chief Justice of England.—On this writ being served on Rear Admiral Martin he declined to obey it until he had communicated with the Admiralty. Captain Scott being absent on leave, could not be served, but the writ was served upon Commander William Worsfold, officiating for Captain Scott in his absence.—This officer's answer was that he would consult the officer commanding at Portsmouth. The writ was next taken to the Captain of the Aurora. The Russian declined receiving it (although its nature was fully explained to him) except through the Russian ambassador or consul. The consul being absent the vice-consul was waited on and his assistance requested, but he positively refused to interfere, alleging the absence of his superior as his excuse. The writ was then taken again on board the Aurora, but the person bearing it was refused access to the captain and not allowed to come on board, and when it was tendered to the lieutenant, who appeared at the gangway, that officer declined receiving it. The bearer then, as he went down the side of the ship, placed it through one of the port holes, but

the lieutenant having perceived this, took the writ up and threw it from the ship, and it fell into a boat alongside. There are witnesses ready to attest all these facts. It now remains to be seen whether Russian officers can with impunity, whilst in this country, and whilst on board not of their own ships but of British men-of-war, despite the authority of the Queen of this realm delegated to the judges of the land. Also, whether the Queen's uniform can exempt Rear Admiral Martin and the other naval officers at Portsmouth who are concerned. The frigate sailed from Portsmouth on Wednesday, for the Pacific, and has thus terminated the matter of the habeas corpus writs for the recovery of the bodies of the re-captured deserters from her.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.—

We have much pleasure in being able to state on good authority, that in future the postage on a Daily paper will be reduced from 15s. per ann. to 8s.

On a Tri-Weekly, to 4s.

On a Semi-Weekly, to 2s 8d

On a Weekly, to 1s 4d

We further learn that periodicals of a purely literary character, or devoted exclusively to education or temperance, are to be entirely free. We do not see the reason of these exceptions; but consider them bad in principle. Literature and Temperance are good, but not better than many other things, and it is unjust to place them on a better footing with respect to postage than news.

We further learn that the revenue derived last year from newspapers and periodicals, was £16,000; the proposed reduction will be over £8,500.—Colonist.

The grand Western Mail is now made up at the Toronto Post Office daily at 7 a.m. for despatch by the steamer Mazepa, connecting with the Great Western Railroad at Hamilton. Correspondence leaving Toronto at 8 a.m. will under this arrangement, reach London at 6 p.m. the same day.

The British Standard.

ST. THOMAS, FRIDAY, JAN. 6.

ST. THOMAS MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

The result of the contest in St. Thomas has been most triumphant to those of the old Council who stood as candidates for re-election. They have all been returned by decisive majorities, and Mr. Richard Luke has also been elected on the same ticket with them. Certainly it is a triumph they may well be proud of, and which we sincerely believe they honestly deserve. Opposed to them were gentlemen long proclaimed to be the most influential in this neighborhood, whose canvass was begun months ago, and who left no stone unturned to secure their election. But the result proves what we have before stated; that the means by which they endeavored to turn out the old Council would not be countenanced by the electors in St. Thomas. The numerous false charges advanced against the Corporation and their officers, were calculated to injure the cause they were intended to advance, and the BILLIGENTS of the "Dispatch" deprived them of any chance of success.

The most contemptible means were resorted to, until the very morning of the election, by the opposition, and to give an idea of the low and vulgar slang which these gentlemen and their party thought proper to use, to serve their purpose, we publish a copy of a handbill circulated on the morning of the first day of the election.—

"WHO WOULD VOTE FOR—

Tanks without water,

Fires without Engines,

Charges without work,

Expenses without benefit,

Cheques without Funds,

Finances without proceeds

AND

MEN without BRAINS

I would not, would you? No! No! No!!!

Is it any loss to this Municipality to be deprived of the services of men who could so far forget themselves as to send forth such a production as this? We fancy not, and so thought the electors also, as the result has proved.

The number of votes at the close of the Poll were as follows—

Benjamin Drake, . . . . . 96

David Parish, . . . . . 95

Dr. Duncombe, . . . . . 92

William Lipsey, . . . . . 91

Richard Luke, . . . . . 84

Total, . . . . . 458

OPPOSITION.

Dr. Southwick, . . . . . 75

M. T. Moore, . . . . . 70

G. T. Claris, . . . . . 69

John McKay, . . . . . 68

C. B. Brown, . . . . . 52

Total, . . . . . 334

The following is a list of the Councilors elected in the various Municipalities in the County of Elgin, as far as we have been able to ascertain.—

ST. THOMAS.—B. Drake, D. Parish, Dr. E. E. Duncombe, W. Lipsey, R. Luke.

VIENNA.—T. Jenkins, J. Elliot, John Alexander, T. Edison, J. B. Marlatt.

YARMOUTH.—Ward No. 1, R. Johnson, do 2, D. Harvey, do 3, A. Miller, do 4, E. S. Ganson, do 5, H. McIntyre.

MALABAR.—L. Clarke, P. Springstead, T. Locker, —McGinness, G. Wong.

BAYHAM.—A. Willson, —Weaver, A. Ostrander, L. McCurdy, —McGinness.

SOUTHWOLD.—Ward No. 1, E. Fowler, do 2, N. McColl, do 3, J. Campbell, do 4, R. B. Nicholl, do 5, Jas. Begg.

DUNWICH.—Ward No. 1, R. Gow, do 2, T. Coyne,\* do 3, D. McCallum, do 4, J. McIntyre, do 5, John Clarke.

ALDBORO.—Accounts from this Township have not been received.

\* Those marked thus were were returned by acclamation.

QUARTER SESSIONS.

The January sittings of this Court commenced on Tuesday last, but no business was transacted, on account of the Town Hall being occupied for the election of councillors. There were no civil cases to be tried. The grand jury having chosen Charles Roe, Esq., for their foreman, were addressed by his honor Judge Hughes, who censured in pretty strong terms, the slow progress of the Court House and public offices.

There were only two cases brought before the petit jury. The first was a charge against Rosanna Robins for stealing a pair of shoes. Verdict, guilty; one month in gaol. Mr. Nicholl for the defence.

John McKnight and John McKenzie were indicted at the instance of a Mr. Strathdee, for a riot. It appeared in evidence that the prisoners were engaged in a chivari at Port Stanley, on the occasion of the prosecutor, who was a widower, having taken to himself a wife some few days ago. Verdict, guilty; sentenced to be imprisoned one month, and to pay a fine of £5 each, and costs of the Court; and to be imprisoned till the same be paid. Hamilton for the prosecution; Nicholl for the defence.

A true bill was found against E. S. Ganson, for an assault and a presentment made against a number of persons in Dunwich, supposed to have been engaged in a riot at one of the municipal elections in Dunwich.

The following Report was handed in by the Grand Jury.

To His Worship, Judge Hughes, presiding Judge Quarter Sessions of January 1854.

The Grand Jury of our sovereign lady the Queen, of the second court of quarter sessions, held in the county of Elgin, beg to state that, having inspected the gaol and court house, they are sorry to have to report that the work in the latter buildings has not been pushed forward with vigor; and beg to suggest that some steps be taken to hasten on the work,—such as employing more workmen to accelerate its completion.

They have also to state that the stairs referred to by your worship are absolutely necessary in their opinion, and their immediate completion would save the county a great deal of unnecessary expense.

They have examined the state of the prisoners in the gaol, and have to report most favorably of their condition, and the cleanliness of their cells. The prisoners speak highly of the attention they receive from the gaoler, Mr. King. A few of the cells require ventilation; but this, with a trifling expense, can be remedied. They are sorry to state that there are no privies connected with the gaol, and they think his was a great oversight in the plan of the building and one which should be remedied without delay. They have also to state that there is no good water about the premises, with the exception of a well in the cellar of the gaoler's house, the access to which is very inconvenient, and would recommend that some better provision for obtaining water should be made. They have also to state that the inside of the doors of the cells are of wood, and recommend that they should be covered with iron, in order to guard more effectually against any escape.

CHAS. ROE, F. reman.

minutes; still you must persevere in trials, inducing us to buy a little more of each, to obtain all the loose change—he never has change of either one or two dollars.

One of those Leperous pedlars having run out of stock (the above) now attempt making capital on the following—

NEW SCIENCE, OR MASCULINITY OF MANHOOD!

OR FOUR LECTURES ON WHISKEROLGY,

Which, if properly and practically understood, does indicate character as correctly as either physiognomy or phrenology.—Tickets 50 cents, admitting gentleman & lady, &c. &c., by

Professor I. Roozars.

By such individuals our country is overrun, and we meely would caution our friends to try none or buy none of their trash.

In case said Professor should remain too long in these "diggings" we had better give a description of said gent—

Very shallow visage, with very long soapy locks, and a very long waist, legs to match. A moustache—we look upon as an unerring lead of brains—and a tuft of coarse beard below the under lip; whose dress, like a veteran, has seen much service. And as "Judy," the washerwoman has shown us her bill of washing, vouches as to the full extent of his wardrobe, we beg to annex, minus the carpet-bag—

Washing a dickey 4 times, \$0.50

Do a pair wrist frills, twice, 0.50

On a shirt collar 4 times, 0.50

Total, \$1.50

This impostor and loafer belongs to the Pill anthropic association; which, with others, are a class which we ought to act against for no other motive than to prevent our country being overrun with poisons and painless scoundrels.

Yours, &c., A. B.

St. Thomas, Jan. 5, 1854.

CHLOROPFORMING BEES.—

Mr. David Smith, in a letter to the Edinburgh Courier, thus describes his discovery of "chloroforming bees":—

"The quantity of chloroform required for an ordinary sized hive, is the sixth part of an ounce. My mode of operation is as follows:—

"I set down a table opposite to, and about four feet from, the hive; on the table I place a small, shallow breakfast plate, which I cover with a piece of wire gauze, to prevent the bees coming into immediate contact with the chloroform. I now quietly and cautiously lift the hive from the board on which it was standing, set it down on the top of the table, keeping the plate in the centre. Cover up the hive closely with cloths, and in 20 minutes or so, the bees are not only sound asleep, but contrary to what I have seen when they have been suffocated with sulphur, not one is left among the combs, the whole of them are lying helpless on the table. You now remove what honey you think fit, replace the hive on its old stand, and the bees, as they recover, will return to their domiciles. A bright, calm, sunny day is the best, and you should commence your operations in the morning, before many of them are abroad."

"Some of the fair readers of 'Black House' have expressed disappointment that Dickens, in the finale of his tale, is silent as to the fate of Sir Leicester Dedlock's cousin, Volunmia Dedlock. Perhaps the following announcement, taken from the Limerick Chronicle, will account for his silence, and satisfy the curiosity of the fair ones. Among the marriages recorded in that journal we find the following:—

"On the 8th September, at Carboneigh street Chapel, Dublin, Mr. Coraehus Leonard, of Shannon street, Limerick, to Volunmia, daughter of Francis Dedlock, of Cherynny Wood, Linsolnsaire."

MARRIED.

On the 20th ult. by the Rev. D. W. Rowland, Mr. John Carnes, of Harwich, to Miss Lucinda Hawley of Fingal.

On the 27th ult. at the Canada House, in this town by the same, Mr. Elijah McConnell of Dayham, to Miss Catherine Shaw of London.

On the 5th instant, by the same, Mr. Jos. Fitzpatrick to Miss Mary Musgrove, both of Southwold.

DIED.—At Port Stanley on the 3rd Jan'y, Mr. Henry Arkell, Senior, aged 71 years.

LADIES' SCHOOL.

TALBOT STREET, ST. THOMAS, C. W.

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