

CHICAGO POST AND BORDER.

SACKVILLE, N. B., DEC. 18, 1884.

—Coal Harbor has been selected as the western terminus of the C. P. Railway.

—Lumbering on the Upper St. John River will be greatly curtailed this winter.

—United States Cigar Manufacturers are opposed to the proposed treaty with Spain.

—The French are about to change their penal colony from New Caledonia to Madagascar.

—It is said the French are buying British steamers to convey their reinforcements to China.

—The House Committee of the U. S. Congress will report favorably on a bill to prevent alien holding land.

—The Dominion Grange will apply to Parliament for power to establish mutual fire insurance among the Patrons of Husbandry.

—It is believed that the Spanish-American treaty will not receive the necessary two-thirds vote in the United States House of Representatives.

—Detective Power, of Halifax, has been investigating the Yarmouth mystery and has worked up a strong case of circumstantial evidence against Abraham Harburt, who has gone to the United States.

—A number of specimens of agricultural produce which have been exhibited at the various agricultural shows in Canada, have been received at the High Commissioner's office in London, and will, we understand, be utilized as opportunity offers at similar exhibitions in the Old Country.

—Immigration returns for the month of November show the total number of arrivals in Canada for the month to have been 4,556; total from 1st of January, 144,842; settlers in the Dominion during the month, 3,622, and for the eleven months, 34,198. For 1883 the arrivals for November were 3,494, and for the eleven months, 32,979.

—An interesting memento of the visit of the British Association to Canada has been issued in Winnipeg by Mr. Richardson. It consists of an account of the special Association excursion through the North-West to the Rocky Mountains. The writer accompanied the party on their trip, and records their doings with some detail. It addition a verbatim report of Sir Richard Temple's Winnipeg address upon the country is given.

—We mentioned in a recent issue of the Post that the Dublin Corporation, in the frenzy of its hate for England, had resolved to discard all the English street-names of their city and substitute therefor the famous names of Irish history. It would almost appear that these ardent patriots had been reading the Post and that they disliked the tone of our remarks, inasmuch as the first thoroughfare selected to be operated upon was Sackville Street. This name has been changed to O'Connell street. The leading merchants, however, so far from appreciating the change, are going to test by a law-suit the right of the corporation to make the alteration and have petitioned the Post Office authorities not to deliver letters addressed to O'Connell Street.

—A year or two ago a gentleman in the United States excited a great deal of attention on the part of the public by sending back from St. Louis to Philadelphia, express prepaid, an umbrella which he had taken away by mistake from the latter city. Nearly every paper in the country made editorial comments on the incident, some apparently regarding it as a harbinger of the millennium and others freely expressing doubts as to the man's sanity. A still more remarkable occurrence has been recently reported from Berlin, the capital of Germany.

This is nothing less than the formation of an umbrella loan society with branch offices through the city. The reasons for this extraordinary enterprise are not given, but it is probable that it must have originated not so much from sympathy with those needing umbrellas as from the exhausted patience of those who have been repeatedly robbed of theirs.

Against this sum, however, have been issued to the value of \$131,556.53 what are called silver certificates which are really greenbacks based on a depreciated coin worth only about 85 cents on the dollar. And yet, with inconceivable audacity, these certificates are received for all public dues and ordered to be paid at the rate of \$28,000,000 per annum. This has been done and at present the silver certificates amount to \$184,700,829 of which \$147,573,721 is lying in the treasury vaults. Against this sum, however, have been issued to the value of \$131,556.53 what are called silver certificates which are really greenbacks based on a depreciated coin worth only about 85 cents on the dollar. And yet, with inconceivable audacity, these certificates are received for all public dues and ordered to be paid at the rate of \$28,000,000 per annum. This has been done and at present the silver certificates amount to \$184,700,829 of which \$147,573,721 is lying in the treasury vaults.

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NEW BRUNSWICK RAILWAYS.

Mr. Maxwell, C. E., Provincial Engineer, was in town yesterday.

In conversation with a reporter of the Post, he stated he had been on a tour of inspection of the railways now in progress in this Province.

The Miramichi Valley, he stated, had been pushed along with great energy. The distance from Chatham Junction to Gibson is about 105 miles. The Company commenced the work of construction this season.

He found 30 miles graded in the Gibson end and 20 miles of track laid. They have been ballasting some months, and have now 15 miles ballasted. On the Chatham end 20 miles are graded, 10 miles are track laid and ballasted. One of the contractors gave up his work, which delayed the grading.

The Company has on hand steel rails, 56 and 60 lbs. to the yard, in quantities sufficient to lay 75 miles of track. The Company has, besides the two locomotives, 35 flat cars and 7 box cars. The Company has a subsidy from the Dominion Government of \$3,200 per mile for 40 miles on the Gibson end, and a local subsidy of \$200 per mile for 70 miles on the Chatham end.

The Company intends asking the Legislature this winter to subsidize the other 35 miles. Mr. Alex. Gibson is President, J. B. Snowball, Esq., and Senator Muirhead are leading directors.

Progress is made with the Carleton Place Railway, by Mr. K. P. Burns, its leading promoter. It runs from Bathurst to Shippagan, distance 60 miles. Ten miles are graded. About 17 miles of rails are on hand, and a locomotive and ten flat cars. The rails are new of steel and weigh 50 lbs. to the yard. The first ten miles is heavy work, the remainder easy. It passes through a good settled country.

Mr. John W. Foster, United States minister to Spain, has lately negotiated an important commercial treaty with Spain having for its object the securing of reciprocity of trade with Cuba and Porto Rico. This treaty cannot become law till approved by the Senate, which body at present has it in hand. We should think that its chances were rather poor. The treaty is opposed to it because they think that all such measures postpone the full success of their favorite dogma, while the protectionists don't like it because it would very seriously affect the sugar and tobacco industries of the United States.

Look at the United States. Cuba and Porto Rico, for instance, furnish it with rather more than one-half the sugar it consumes, yielding a customs revenue of between \$20,000,000 and \$25,000,000 annually. Unless the duty on sugar from other countries is likewise removed, it is plain that the price to the consumer will not be lowered and that the twenty or twenty-five millions will simply pass from the United States treasury to the pockets of the sugar producers in Cuba and Porto Rico. In the one matter of sugar, therefore, there is a heavy loss to the revenue with absolutely not an iota of resulting benefit. This of itself would seem to be quite enough to prevent the treaty from becoming law.

There are in the United States in connection with the currency question some very grave problems, the solution of which cannot be much longer postponed. It is silver which is at the bottom of the trouble. This metal is not used at all in Germany for money, and the other European States place very serious restrictions on its circulation. These causes, aided by the immense production in the mines of the West, have depreciated the value of silver in the United States as compared with gold to such a degree that the silver dollar is at present worth only about 85 cents gold. Nearly six years ago, however, the prodigious output of silver caused a craze, and at the time the greenback here, to spring up, particularly in the Western States, and Congress, apparently under the impression that the United States could with impunity cut themselves loose from the money ideas of the rest of the world, passed the Gold Standard Act, which made silver receivable for all public dues and ordered it to be paid at the rate of \$28,000,000 per annum. This has been done and at present the silver certificates amount to \$184,700,829 of which \$147,573,721 is lying in the treasury vaults.

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