

General Notes.

A BROOKLYN mechanic has invented a wonderful sewing machine, which, it is claimed, will do 80 per cent. more work than any machine now in the market. An experiment with steam power moved it with a speed of 2,200 stitches a minute, and it was started and stopped instantly. It is simple in construction, is easily operated, and sews all kinds of fabrics, from leather to fine linen.

On Saturday last a statement of the assets and liabilities of John Rosch, the great American ship-builder, who suspended some weeks ago, was filed in the Court of Common Pleas, New York. The liabilities are \$2,262,877.81; nominal assets, \$5,258,098.87; actual assets, \$4,631,478.25. The preferred creditors are five in number, and the amount they claim \$122,217.19. The assignee gives a bond of \$200,000.

The Northern Pacific Railway's first shipment of beef cattle was made a few days ago. Ten car loads left Sprague, Washington Territory, consigned to Rosenbaum Bros. & Co., Chicago. We observe, by the way, that this railway has issued a circular giving notice that the rates quoted by it from Tacoma to New Westminster, B.C., are withdrawn, the Oregon Navigation Company having given notice that it has discontinued sending boats regularly to that point.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company project an extension of their system to Sault Ste Marie, where connection is made with the Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette road, which is now completed to Humboldt, leaves but the short gap from Humboldt to Ashland. This will form a through line from eastern Canada to the American northwest south of Lake Superior. The difference in distance by this route as against the present routes by way of Chicago will bring Montreal about four hundred miles nearer the Northwestern States.

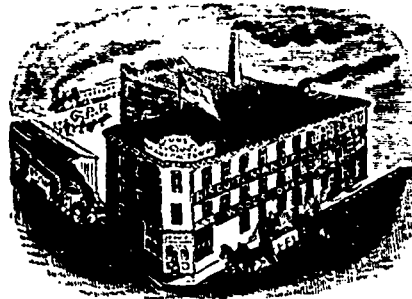
SPECULATORS make the following figures: In 1880, with a crop of 499,000,000 bushels of wheat, the latter sold at \$1.10; in 1881, with a crop of 380,000,000 bushels, wheat sold from \$1.10 up to \$1.50, and even up to \$1.60; in 1882, with a crop of 502,000,000 bushels, wheat sold from \$1.33 down to \$1.20; while in 1883, with a crop of 420,000,000 bushels, it sold from \$1.25 down to \$1.00 per bushel; in 1884, with 513,000,000 bushels, it went off to 78½ cents; and this year, with a possible 400,000,000 bushels, the expectation is that the price will go from \$1.90 to \$1.25 per bushel.

The shipments of cinchona bark to this country have practically ceased. A large number of men have been employed in gathering this bark, and some very large and valuable shipments have been made, but at the present time it is useless to chip any at all. The main cause of the decline has been the wonderful development of the cultivated bark in Sierra Leone and the East Indies. While the best genuine bark that is shipped from South America has seldom been over 2½ to 3 per cent. of sulphate of quinine, under cultivation in India they increase it as high in some cases as 10 per cent.

STEEL canal boats are pronounced practicable, and their construction is recommended by

an old shipbuilder as a measure of economy. Steel is said to be free from objections as compared with iron. Some plates of steels have just been tested in Pittsburg which were made for a new steamer for the Detroit and Cleveland Steam Navigation Company. In other tests made by the Detroit Dry-Dock Company a ball of rope weighing 950 pounds was dropped from a height of 55 feet on a plate three-sixteenths of an inch thick. The blow made a bulge in the plate that extended 20 inches into the ground, but the plate was not broken. The plate was then turned over and the ball dropped on the bulge. This was repeated five times, and then the plate was not broken, but when the ball was dropped on an iron plate one-half inch thick the plate was broken at the first blow. These tests show plainly that thin steel plates are not only sufficiently strong, but that their elasticity would make them far superior to wood for building even the roughest barge.

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