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There is a rush of immigration towards Washington Territory and labor is said to be in excellent demand in the territory of Henry Villard.

St. Paul is erecting over 100 brick business houses costing nearly \$5,000,000 and 145 frame stores worth an additional half a million.

Bank failures and business failures while giving no sure grounds for fear that a panic is upon us, show that prices and speculation have dropped close to the bottom.

An attempt, of Parnell, to rebuke the English government through the defeat of the appropriation bill for the Irish prosecutions failed yesterday in the house of commons.

The Chicago Inter Ocean has a leading article on "The Dangers of Prosperity." They are great. No one will attempt to deny it. But the inconveniences of adversity are even greater.

Senator Allison will receive general sympathy in his affliction. Mr. Allison is one of the best and clearest handed men in the senate and is personally popular among his constituents.

At the rate at which grading contracts are being let, the surplus of funds in the city treasury available for electric lighting promises to be too small to be seen with the largest kind of a microscope.

Politicians who claim to know the force of the wind and the direction of the current, quietly assent that should General Arthur decline to be a candidate for the presidency, Secretary Lincoln will be taken up by the stalwarts. Mr. Lincoln's canvass would be made on his father's reputation. It would be a campaign based on a powerful personal sentiment.

Reports from financial centers show a continued decline in speculation and a decrease in bank clearings which are now 25 per cent. lower than at the corresponding period last year. No record of the clearances of Omaha banks is published because Omaha bankers refuse to pay the necessary clerk hire to compile a weekly statement of the amount of business transacted through their institutions.

There was another flurry on Wall street yesterday in which the bears came off victorious, forcing stock down to the lowest notch they have reached for years. Great excitement was caused on the street by the failure of George William Ballou & Co., one of the largest firms of brokers in the city. It is rumored that several other firms are seriously embarrassed.

The following was the estimated railway mileage of the world on January 1, 1883: United States, 113,000; Europe, 109,000; Asia, 8,000; South America, 7,000; Canada, 8,500; Australia, 3,200; Africa, 2,200; Mexico, 2,100—grand total, 253,000 miles. These figures are not exact, as it is impossible to obtain official returns within a year or two after date, and so it is necessary to use the latest available statements and add the probable number of miles of road that may have been built in different countries since the time the latest statistics published with authority were issued.

It is apparent from the receipts of the government during July that the revision of the tariff is not likely to result in a loss of revenue, there being an actual gain of nearly a million dollars in custom duties as compared with July, 1882. The abolition of a part of the internal revenue taxes and the reduction of others have, however, had a decided effect on the income of the nation, and, on the whole, the public revenue will be slightly diminished by the legislation of last winter. The tariff must be still further reduced in the interests of every one except the industrial monopolists who thrive on exorbitant exactions from 50,000,000 of our people.

According to the new treasury regulations, brewers will hereafter be required to make an official showing of all materials which enter into the manufacture of their beer. The news will be welcome to many consumers of the article. There is a prevailing impression that since the jump in the price of hops last fall also and various other drugs have been used in large quantities in the preparation of this popular beverage. The new treasury regulations, if enforced, will be of assistance in preserving the public health. In addition they will be of assistance to honest brewers who use barley and hops instead of injurious drugs in their business. Pure beer is much less dangerous than the doctored article and the consumption of lager has become so universal in the United States that this latest move on the part of the treasury department is in the line of a wholesome reform.

GENERAL DRUM has asked the adjutant general of the several states for full information concerning their militia. This request of the adjutant general has been interpreted in a dozen different ways by Washington correspondents, some of whom have credited him with preparations for a war with Mexico, others with a contest with Germany, and still others as about to put down an impending riot of American workmen. A special dispatch to the Pioneer Press says that there is reason to believe that General Drum simply desires this information for a special report to congress on the subject. It is well known that he takes a very decided interest in the militia and thinks there should be a national militia, at least 200,000 strong, uniformed and equipped by the United States exactly as federal troops are uniformed and equipped, with artillery and cavalry in the quota which each would be expected to furnish. The United States should furnish armories where they are needed, and every other thing which the state did not provide, or which the militia men could not obtain at slight expense. The militia ought to be regarded as the reserve of the regular army. It ought to be so officered and so trained that it could be mobilized within forty-eight hours. Gen. Drum thinks every state should then be ready to send at a moment's notice such a body of troops as Pennsylvania sent to Garfield's inauguration, within thirty-six hours of the time when the order to march was given. Gen. Sherman said of them, "I could not ask better troops. I would not hesitate to lead them against veterans." Massachusetts and New York have similar regulations. Gen. Drum thinks every state should have them. He is doing what he can to bring this about. He encourages the states in every possible way to seek his aid. The regular army could then be kept small. The nation could depend on its militia. It could well afford to spend five or ten millions a year in preparing such an army and a million or two a year in keeping it up. Congress will be asked by Gen. Drum to establish such a system.

SENATOR ALLISON opened the Iowa campaign for the republicans at Clarinda on Saturday. Judge Kinne, the democratic nominee for governor, has been in the field for several weeks. If Mr. Kinne ever had any hopes of securing an election, or even of seriously reducing the republican majority, he has thrown them all away by declaring himself not only opposed to prohibition, which would have met with a ready response from many republicans, but by announcing himself and his party unalterably against any restriction of the liquor traffic whatever. Judge Kinne's speech, in which he declared for "a saloon on every hill top," has created a deep disgust, even among democrats, while it has driven back into the ranks thousands of republicans who were faltering in their allegiance.

Democratic blundering is the deadliest foe to democratic success. But of all the blunders made by the party in state elections, the mistake of surrendering to the advocates of an unlicensed liquor traffic in a state which by 40,000 majority declared for prohibition two years ago, is the worst. It is a blunder so monumental that no one but a bourbon politician could have been guilty of it. It was particularly uncalculated for under the circumstances. The radical stand taken by the republican convention which threw overboard Judge Day because he refused to uphold the constitutionality of the prohibitory amendment, seemed to assure permanent republican disaffection. But the position assumed by the democratic party and its candidate discounts invidiously the blunder of the republican convention. It has strengthened the party, drawn closer the party lines and assured in advance an overwhelming republican victory. For all of which the mossbacks who never forget anything except their own mistakes, and never learn anything except new methods of blundering, have only themselves to blame.

Congress ought to abolish the territorial law-making power, and rule the Territory through a commission. Congress itself makes all necessary laws for the government of the District of Columbia, and why not for Utah? Until the Mormons are excluded from all participation in the Territorial government, there will be trouble and polygamy will continue to flourish.—Cleveland Leader.

This is the heroic remedy urged by ex-Senator Padlock. But what right has congress to disfranchise thousands of law-abiding citizens in Utah because a portion of the voters in the territory profess a belief in polygamy. Under the Edmunds law polygamists have already been disfranchised. A government by commission would increase political patronage, and furnish fat positions for chronic office seekers. But these minor advantages would be more than set off by pernicious example of the establishment of a territorial tyranny under whose rule the habeas corpus would be suspended, the right to trial by jury abolished, and all citizens, both innocent and guilty, deprived of their dearest political rights.

The Herald denounces some one for "slandering the army" because attention has been called to the needless and numerous "inspection trips" which are being made for official pleasure combined with official business in the Department of the Platte. We say needless, because it is a matter of comment among army officers in Omaha and of good natured laughter at posts outside of Omaha that the "inspection" business has been greatly overdone during the past year. We shall shortly give a comparison in dollars and cents of the amount of mileage drawn by General Howard's staff and that by General Crook's staff during the first year of

his incumbency in the department. The figures speak for themselves. The trouble with the army is that they imagine themselves entirely outside of the pale of newspaper criticism. No abuse connected with the military establishment has ever been ventilated without arousing the same old cry of slander. It is especially appropriate that Dr. Miller, whose experience with the army was gained in peddling poor whiskey to officers at Ft. Kearney, should denounce as slanderous any criticism upon the army. But if the Herald and the staff of the immaculate Howard are pining for specifications and figures they can be accommodated. The truth of the matter is that our entire military establishment needs a thorough overhauling. And it is likely to receive it at the next session of congress.

It will be no very difficult matter to print the names of officers in the department who hold railroad passes and draw mileage from the government for expenditures which have never been accounted for.

OMAHA, Aug. 14th. I am a workman looking out for a lot to build a little house upon. I have saved \$250, but find that no lots within a reasonable distance of the city can be had for that sum. Men who paid from \$200 to \$500 for their property four years ago are holding it at from four to eight times that figure. With real estate as high as it is at present, there does not seem to be any lots for workmen in Omaha.

The demand for local real estate continues good, but there is a feeling that residence property on the extremes of the city boundaries has been pushed up too high. Almost every week sees new additions mapped out and platted. Farm land and swamp land can be turned too fast into city lots. Of course as long as the owners of such property can hold their lots and meet interest on their mortgages prices can be maintained. But prices are too high in some portions of Omaha, and must come down. There is no reason why lots two miles from the center of the city should be held at their present figures. If workmen will wait a few months, or, at most, a year, he can buy his \$350 lot within a reasonable distance of town. It will probably not be a corner lot or situated on a paved street lit with gas lamps, or supplied with city water. But property in some of the latest laid out subdivisions on the outskirts can not continue at its present inflated rates.

The sub-committee of the senate committee on labor is in session in New York investigating the telegraph strike and its causes. The statistics collected will furnish an excellent basis for pressing the popular demand for a postal telegraph system before the next congress.

The Paramount Issue. The Pall Mall Gazette has a striking article on the growing tendency in England to resist the encroachments and aggressions of monopolies. The railway passengers duty bill, a very mild measure for the additional protection of the traveling public, has called forth a fierce protest from Sir Edward Watkin, a railway capitalist. He insists that the government should not interfere with the operations of organized capital. He protests against parliament taking a step which will be followed by others and lead to the complete subjection of corporations to the will of accidental majority. The addition of a parcel post to the postal system, which carries parcels weighing seven pounds and all smaller weight for one shilling, and one pound for three pence, to any part of the country, is in the same line. It was called for by the excessive charges and irregular service of the railway express companies, which had a monopoly of that business. The people were at their mercy. And they charged enormous rates without rendering a proper equivalent in service. They were neither quick, safe nor accommodating.

Mr. Fawcett, who is a good deal of a democrat, took the matter into his own hand, and utilized the national postoffice for the accommodation of the people. The result is that the expressage of small parcels has been taken out of the hands of extortionate monopolies, and will hereafter be done cheaply and promptly by the government. No wonder that British capitalists now feel alarmed at the growth of a tendency which is already practical enough to produce such practical results.

The same tendency appears quite as strikingly and strongly in France. The railway corporations which obtained profitable privileges in their charters are now pushing the public by a series of exactions which cause loud complaints from every quarter. What shall be done to protect the people from the exactions of these corporations? Is the question asked with increasing earnestness everywhere. Mr. Modier De Montjan recently delivered a powerful plenary in the Chamber of Deputies, in which he denounced the existing corporations as "the most dangerous enemy of public liberty and public peace." The "financial feudalism," of which they form a bulwark, is becoming an almost impassable check to progress and civilization. Nothing that has ever been seen in the most corrupt American state legislature can compare with the picture drawn by the radical orator of the fate awaiting the French chamber when all its members will be "men systematically led astray, all directors, shareholders, agents, creators of the companies." Already, he tells his fellow members, "we are lowering the standard of public credit, of our dignity, our liberty, the power of the state, before the companies. So entirely have they entered into your hearts and taken possession of you, so well have they discovered the way, by means of their great following, their imposing power, to impress their will upon you, to make you fear them, and reject with madness the idea of a struggle with them." The monopoly which the French people are fighting against is that formed by combined railroad corporations, and the anti-monopolists claim that railway charges should be so fixed as just to defray the expenses of work and maintenance. It is the principle of applying all profits, after the payment of a certain modest interest upon capital, to reducing the expense to the public of the services which the monopolists are empowered to render. The companies are to be entitled to a fair remuneration for their services but no more. And the

eloquent advocacy of this principle fills the monopolists with alarm. It is democracy against monopoly. This is the paramount issue in England and France, as well as in America. Here we are facing another form of the pressing issue in the fight against the telegraph monopoly, which has managed to get outside of the business of the country and is forcing the people to carry it and pay enormously for the privilege. The railroad monopolies pushed into the background for the moment by the insistent demands of the Western Union monopoly and the strike it precipitated, have reached a point of arrogance and of pride that the country of which they are France has little to say. The transportation interest in a continental country like the United States is too vast and vital in its importance for French statesmen to grasp. To-day that interest is in the grip of a dozen millionaire railroad kings, who fix the terms on which farmers and merchants shall buy the produce of the country; and whether farmers shall be bankrupted, and what the working people of the East shall pay for food. These are only two out of the monopolies that to-day rival the government in ruling the people, and do more than any American government would be permitted to do to rob and impoverish the people. And the paramount issue in our politics to-day is not bank nor tariff nor internal improvements, nor any of the questions politicians gabble about: it is democracy and monopoly. Which of these shall rule in America?

Amidst this issue the democratic party has no choice, but by its history and principles and sympathies it is forced to take the side of the people in opposition to monopoly.

Blaine's Tactics. A Washington special to The Boston Herald says: "I was a delegate to the Cincinnati convention in 1876, and also to the Chicago convention in 1880," said a Maryland politician to-night. "I voted for Blaine seventeen times at Cincinnati and three times at Chicago. I stopped voting for him when I saw there was no chance of his securing the nomination. No, I don't think he will ever have the following he has at present. He is a politician. Mr. Blaine had the best equipped fighting force at Chicago of any one. No candidates ever had better generals managing their canvass. Failure, under the circumstances, was considered a final defeat, and all of Blaine's friends regarded it as such. A few weeks ago I happened to occupy a hotel in a seaport adjoining one occupied by Blaine and a prominent Maine politician. I was awakened by the sound of voices in the night. I recognized Blaine's voice immediately. His friend was urging him to follow out a new line of policy at the next national convention. He advised him to get himself elected as a delegate to the next convention, and then, if chosen, prepared to take advantage of circumstances. Mr. Blaine finally agreed to think it over, and I think that is the next move he contemplates. You see he would have no difficulty in securing the leadership of the Maine delegation. In that position he would be able to wield a large influence. He could not be so easily dictated to as he is now, however. He would undoubtedly have a following from the rural districts, where the people are slow to accept changes or to alter their minds when once made up. Mr. Blaine, as the leader of the Maine delegation in the next convention, will be the most important factor in it.

"Do you think Gen. Arthur will be brought forward as a candidate?" "I have no doubt of it. Everything points that way now, but Mr. Blaine may be able to defeat his nomination."

"An incident of the Chicago convention probably changed the result. When the delegates met in caucus every one felt that war would commence on the chairmanship of the convention. Mr. Conkling made a long speech. He recognized that many delegates differed from him personally, but that should not cause ill feeling. The Grant men were not strong enough to elect a chairman, but they could prevent the election of an objectionable man. Eugene Hale responded for the Blaine faction, and acknowledged the wisdom of Conkling's suggestion. He then asked the New York senator to name one that they could all unite on. Mr. Conkling mentioned J. Morrison Harris, of Maryland, and this was satisfactory to Mr. Hale. Mr. Harris at first refused the place, but finally consented to allow his name to be used. When the voting commenced, however, all the Blaine men, with the exception of two, voted against Harris. He then got up and formally declined to be a candidate, and Senator Hoar was subsequently chosen. The failure of Hale and his friends to keep to the agreement was the foundation of the bitter feeling that was engendered between the two factions, Grant and Blaine."

Australia's Prospect. San Francisco Chronicle. Sir Henry Parker, late governor of New South Wales, is authority for the assertion that when Australia is as old as the United States it will be far ahead of us in civilization, by which we presume he means that not only will the population be greater, but the products, the ports, exports and general business will far exceed ours in volume. We do not like to differ from an intelligent gentleman who is so evidently American in his sympathies, but it is apparent he has arrived at his conclusions without a thorough examination of the history and resources of this country. It is true that the population of the United States when independence was declared was only 3,000,000, or about that of Australia to-day; but the settlers occupied only a strip of the Atlantic coast, while nearly all the rest of the country was unknown and occupied by savages. The territory that is of such value in Australia has been explored and most of it has been for some time open to occupation. No hostile tribe, but only the inherent barrenness of the region, prevented the settlement of the vast semi-desert areas of the interior. Agriculture, on which almost every country depends, if it expects to attain a high degree of prosperity, needs plenty of rain or numerous streams that can be used for irrigation. The streams in Australia are few and are dry most of the year. The rainfall is light, except along the coast. Most of the immense regions of the interior have but a few inches of rain annually and this quickly disappears without doing any good. In the northern part the sandy deserts extend nearly to the sea-coast, the monsoons from the Indian ocean not carrying enough moisture to penetrate any great distance before they become evaporated by the terrific heat. In Southern and Western Australia there is more or less arable land, but it is greatly out of proportion to the whole area. Our comments apply to the whole of the island and not especially to Victoria and New South Wales, which form its garden spot, they being temperate, healthy and very productive. But the adaptability of even these two

colonies for agriculture is by no means proved. Their products are as yet limited. The whole of Australia only produces about as much wheat and barley as California, and wheat culture, we are told, has made little advance in New South Wales of recent years. Wool has been the chief export, but if we are to believe a tract published by Christopher Rollston, C. M. G., and auditor general, president of this colony, the limits of pasturage have already been reached. The wine of Australia bears a good reputation, but grape culture is in its infancy. Oranges can be raised, but to what extent is not known. Hides, tallow and canned meats are sent abroad in large quantities, but beyond these and the few other articles mentioned, the export trade amounts to little. We do not see how Australia can ever be largely engaged in manufactures, its streams being few and its situation for supplying the wants of the world not very favorable. Without navigable streams, and for the reason just given, its foreign commerce must also be limited principally to the export of raw material and provisions and the import of all lines of manufactured goods needed by its increasing population.

We have no desire to rehearse the resources of this country or to show the differences that exist between it and the so-called Australian continent. There is nothing really valuable known to commerce that cannot be produced in the United States. Hundreds of streams are navigable and thousand furnish water power throughout the year. Nearly every area which is unproductive—a few hundred miles in the mid-continent excepted—has water convenient for irrigation. We believe that the four States, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Iowa, can alone produce as much as Australia will be able to produce one hundred years from this time. This country is not a fertile rim surrounding an immense barren area. The two lands would be similar were all the broad extent of territory between the Alleghany mountains and the Sierra Nevada and the Gulf States and the basin of the great lakes useless so far as agriculture is concerned; in other words, a desert like the central plateau of the Australian continent. In spite of all these disadvantages we believe that Australia, judged by its individual colonies, has a great future. But its people must cease throwing its vast unknown and worthless area into the face of mankind, as if its being a geographical colossus were its greatest merit. Quality rather than quantity is the standard of judgment in this era of refined common sense. A word of counsel to visitors who come from Sydney and Melbourne may not be amiss. Too many of them form their opinions of the United States from a casual glance at California. We are proud enough of our state and its advantages, but we are only a specimen brick. We are less than one-fifth of the great country to which we belong, and those who wish to know us as a nation and a people should visit and examine thoroughly all there is of interest between the two oceans and the great lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Iowa Campaign. Pioneer-Press. It would seem to be impossible for those who guide the fortunes of the Republican party to stumble into a blunder out of which their opponents would not forthwith kindly help them by proceeding to make one more open and inconceivable. The democracy has deliberately put itself to a disadvantage in Ohio, such that, while it seemed at one time to have a fair chance of carrying the state at the ensuing election, its defeat is now virtually conceded. And in Iowa, where it had the advantage of being opposed to a doctrine which is theoretically indefensible and practically a failure—where it seemed impossible that it should miss the plain and straight way which might conduct it, if not to victory at least to such a degree of success as it had never known in that republican stronghold—it has actually been able to discover and fix upon a course which will go far to deprive it of this advantage, and array against it all the decent elements of the community. The campaign there is now fairly opened, and from the reports of the speeches made it is apparent that the republicans are thoroughly in earnest, and that the probability which at one time existed that they had thrown away their opportunity and lost their cause no longer exists. There never was at any time any question of carrying the state, though it was thought the customary majority would be greatly reduced. It now appears not unlikely that the anticipated reduction will be counterbalanced by accusations of disguised demerits, and that the party will secure about its customary number of members of the legislature.

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