Nebraska Herald.

PLATTSMOUTH NEBRAKSA.,

THURSDAY, AUG. 10. 1871.

Plattsmouth real estate is looking up during the past two weeks.

The Ashland *Times* proposes to adopt the cash in advance system in about two weeks from the present date.

We know of several farmers who will commence hauling in new wheat next week.

How about that suggestion of the Omaha *Republican?* Has the Convention passed the resolution declaring its members ineligible to hold office under the Constitution?

The Blue Valley *Record* says the whole country is alive to the importance of the recent coal discoveries in that locality. A shaft ten feet in diameter is being sunk to the coal.

The Cass County Agricultural and Mechanical Association will have one of the finest half mile tracks in the State.

The new Constitution will provide for annual sessions of the Legislature with Senators elected for two years and members of the House for one year, with salaries at $4 per day and ten cents a mile.

Mr. F W. D. Holbrook, Chief Asst. Sup't. of the B. & M., has purchased a very neat residence in the north part of the city. The railroad men are ever on the alert to get hold of Plattsmouth property. They can understand its prospective value.

A meeting was held in Omaha last Saturday evening to consider the question of enforcing the law prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sunday. From the report of the meeting in the *Republican*, we judge that the roughs were somewhat numerous, and that they really controled the meeting. Several speakers were prevented from talking, and a general "hubub" seems to have ensued.

Messrs. R. B. Windham and Henry Thomas, of this city, left to-day for Nebraska City to attend the rendition of the Oratorio of Esther, which takes place this evening and to-morrow evening, by the singers of that city under direction of the celebrated Baker Family. Mr. Windham will proceed farther down the river to the vicinity of St. Joseph, on business.

President Grant has postponed his vist to Plattsmouth and the Pacific coast until the B. & M. in Nebraska is completed to a junction with the U. P. at Kearney.

The Treasurer of Dodge county has advertised the lands of the U. P. R. R. Co. for sale for delinquent taxes.

A private letter from Fillmore county says: "Several settlers are here from N. J., induced by the copy of the HERALD sent to ————." We are gratified to learn of these evidences of the good being accomplished by the HERALD.

The Rulo *Register*, "the only genuine, all others are base counterfeits," is certainly one of the dirtiest papers in the State.—The editor uses such gentlemanly terms as "liars," "thieves," "robbers," etc., and applies them to his neighbors, with as much ease as though they were terms the use of which were sanctioned by respectable people.

We regret to learn that our worthy friend and fellow citizen, J. W. Carrothers, is about to leave us to hunt a new home in the far west. We can recommend John to the people wherever he may go as a true man, and a liberal minded citizen.

We publish to-day, a complete list of the bidders for the Contract at Omaha, on the 1st inst., for which we are indebted to Joseph A. Connor, one of the principal grain dealers of this city. We believe this is the first time a complete list of the bidders, with prices and contracts, has ever been published in the State.

The fellow who is supposed to have stolen Commissioner Albin's horses came into that neighborhood and staid over night, and made his exit again while Mr. Erwin was out getting a warrant for his arrest. His name is McAlister.

P. T. Beaver & Sons have a saw mill on the north side of the Platte river, one mile above its mouth, where they keep on hand, and saw to order, all kinds of cottonwood lumber.

Mr. Wm. Altaffer informs us that he has already sold over 1000 bushels of his fall wheat for seed. The farmers of Nebraska are becoming much disposed to raise winter wheat.

Nearly every issue of the Omaha *Herald* contains some slander against Senator Tipton, to the effect that he will take the stump against the next Republican nominee for President, and other equally ridiculous and slanderous things. Senator Tipton should silence the *Herald* by a flat denial of these oft repeated assertions.

It is expected that the Trunk road will be completed to Plattsmouth at an early day, the K. C. St. Joe & C. B. road will lay their track in to the river opposite this city, and the B. & M. branch of the Pacific road be completed to Kearney.—Then look out for lively times in Plattsmouth. The man who wants to make a "pile of money" should invest in Plattsmouth property prior to that time.

J. R. Vanatta, Esq., of this city, has a dog which is certainly a canine singularity, and is worth having. It is but a year old, and for four or five months past it has accompanied a cow of its master's far beyond the city limits, remains with it throughout the day, returning home with the cow in the evening. It cannot be coaxed or driven away from the cow—seemingly its companion and best friend—but sticks to it like a "brother," through "thick and thin," rain or shine. It has never been trained "thusly," but "took it up" of its own accord. We think this "beats the dogs."

The Cozzens Hotel at Omaha is advertised for rent.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

Last Saturday afternoon the eldest son of E. S. Sharp, Esq., broke his left arm just above the elbow by falling from an elevated pole, used for gymnastic exercises. While performing on the pole his hand slipped and he fell on his left side, with his arm doubled up under the body. There are many youthful gymnasts in the city, and they often become exceedingly careless.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

A Chance for Contractors

We publish to-day an advertisement from the commissioners appointed to superintend the construction of the Lunatic asylum at Lincoln, asking for proposals for the erection of the building. Here is a chance for some enterprising builder, who has the nerve to make figures on a large contract. For particulars read the advertisement.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

A B. & M. locomotive, at "the front" was struck by lightning during the storm Thursday night, and the engineer, Mike Eagan—formerly foreman of the company shops in this city—and Mr. Frost, the conductor, were severely shocked.—During the same storm the station car at Crete was struck and a number of papers were burned.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

The following exhibit shows the bids made at Omaha, Aug. 1st, for the delivery of grain for Government use, at Omaha and other points, the grain to be furnished during the months of August and September:

Names of bidders.		Price per bush.		No. Bush
[To be delivered at Ft. Russell.]				
L. Norton,	(corn)	79	cts.	35,000
John L. Marshall,	"	76	"	34,000
[To be delivered at Omaha.]				
C. W. Lyman,	(corn)	56½	"	100,000
C. J. Lorton,	"	56½	"	30,000
" "	(oats)	31	"	20,000
L. Ludwick,	(corn)	49	"	20,000
" "	(oats)	33	"	50,000
Jas. A. Connor,	(corn)	59	"	50,000
" "	"	53½	"	50,000
" "	(oats)	35½	"	50,000
" "	"	41½	"	40,000
J. Neeby,	(corn)	59	"	33,333
J. W Thompson,	"	54	"	100,000
Lewis & Stevens,	"	45	"	100,000
M. McCormick,	"	55	"	100,000
Eli Plummer,	"	69½	"	20,000
H. Yates,	"	67½	"	50,000
" "	"	58½	"	50,000
A. W. Clark,	"	54¾	"	20,000
B J. Newson,	"	54¾	"	100,000
J. E. Boyd;	"	53¾	"	100,000
Wm. J. Mead,	"	69½	"	20,000
" "	"	74½	"	20,000
" "	"	76	"	20,000
" "	"	88	"	20,000
A. J. Walker,	"	57½	"	20,000
E. Worthing,	"	57½	"	20,000
" "	"	60	"	20,000
Holland & Duke,	"	62	"	100,000
S. W. Harran,	"	58	"	100,000
N. J. Bond,	(oats)	37½	"	20,000
E. Worthing,	"	44 44/100	"	50,000
Hanman (Leavenworth)	"	88	"	50,000
Holland & Deukle,	"	45	"	50,000
Mulholland & Thatcher,	"	34	"	50,000

Mulholland & Thatcher bid to deliver 50,000 bushels of corn at 50cts during August and September, and 50,000 bushels of roasting ears to be delivered in the months of January, February and March, 1872. It is needless to add that Gen. Perry threw this bid out on account of irregularity.

This was an exciting day at the Government Headquarts in Omaha. There was that feverish anxiety displayed amongst those (*honest*) fellows to know the result that reminded one of the "black Friday" when so many men were ruined in the gold room in New York some time ago.

Hon. John Wentworth, of Chicago,—the veritable "Long John"—has been invited to deliver the annual address at the Nebraska State Fair this Fall.

It is getting so now that if the mercury is below 90° the people say "it is cool weather."

A portion of the outfit of Messrs. Browne & Roach, noted railroad contractors of Kansas, arrived in the city this morning on their way west to operate on the B. & M. in Nebraska. Fitzgerald is crowding the work rapidly, and will have the grading completed ahead of his contract time.

Col. Doane, the Superintendent of the B. & M. in Nebraska, was voted the priviliges of the floor of the Constitutional Convention last week.

The Chief Engineer of the St. Joseph Bridge Company reports that the total cost of a bridge across the Missouri river at that city will be about $1,310,000.

A Lincoln paper says our Crete correspondent—"The Ancient"—has been elected Superintendent of a Sunday School at Crete. Ye Ancient can give the little ones some good advice if he is so inclined.

The Brooks House is undergoing repairs, and the room now occupied as a billiard hall will be converted into a dining room. A new kitchen is being constructed.

Mr. Tilton, of this city, had a narrow escape from drowning during the recent high water, while crossing a creek near Louisville station. His team of four horses and a wagon was carried some distance down the stream, and were only saved through great exertion.

Messrs. Dilley, Austin and Martindale were employed yesterday as teachers for the different ward schools in this city—Austin in the 1st ward, Dilley in the 2d ward and Martindale in the 3d ward.—The schools will probably commence about the 15th of September.

Rev. G. J. Arnold, of Iowa, preached at the corner of Main and Sixth streets, last evening.

We noticed a prominent M. D. of this city yesterday standing in front of a vegetable stand looking with much satisfaction upon a tub full of cucumbers. Upon being asked the cause of his satisfied look he remarked that there was at least a hundred dollars for his pocket in that tub full of cucumbers.

E. A. Kirkpatrick, Esq., and V. V. Leonard, of this city, left for Waterloo, on the Republican, to-day.

Our worthy P. M. informs us that mail service has been ordered from Plattsmouth to La Platte, and the mail is now carried daily.

Street Commissioner W. J White is busy putting streets and bridges in repair.

OMAHA, July 21st 1 71.

DEAR HERALD:—From the "busy cares" I snatch a moment, which I improve in informing you of the result of a legal investigation in the U. S. Court at Omaha—(the SODOM of America—Dr. Miller Grand Ruler). For two years past the Land Commissioner of the B. & M. R. R. in Nebraska has been thundering the anathemas of the law over the heads of a few poor, hardy, honest, energetic frontiersmen for their "willful and defiant depredations on R. R. timber lands." It appears that the general government has for years past offered great inducements to immigration, also the State. In addition to this the B. & M. Agents have sent broadcast all over the civilized world circulars, pamphlets &c., advertising "this rich and productive country" By these thousands have been induced to emigrate to our State. In the history of the world, no country has ever been known to settle with such rapidity as Nebraska, the past two years. Many of these emigrants are poor. They come here and took homesteads, and with determined energy began improving their farms. In order to make a covering for their wives and helpless children, from the driving storms and wintry blasts, they trespassed upon public lands, by cutting a few poles, forks and brush, also by getting a little wood with which to warm their benumbed fingers and to cook their scanty food. Against these poor settlers the B. & M. in Nebraska instituted a suit, not in their own name, in the State courts, (fearing public opinion and courts if not successful), but by reporting parties supposed to be guilty (?) and giving names of witnesses to the U. S. Commissioners. The Grand Jury in May last found seven indictments against these settlers—"AHAZ" included. The wealthy and energetic B. & M. in Nebraska refused to give their witnesses a free pass over their road *in* Nebraska to the court *in Nebraska.*

The case of the U. S. vs. — Hampton was the first called. Witness on the stand. Have you ever seen Mr. Hampton cut and take timber from section nine, town eight, range three west?—Yes, sir. Is this section government land? No, Sir—it is the property of one John Selivan, who has nearly two hundred acres under cultivation; it is included in the grant made by the general government to the B. & M. R. R. in Nebraska. Are all the sections mentioned in the seven indictments included in the same grant? Yes Sir. Here Judge Dundy ruled the *seven precious papers out of court* for want of jurisdiction, and we chaps put for home with the "goose hanging high."

The B. & M. in Nebraska get about $75.00 for fare out of us poor devils, which is the last they ever will get while horses can be bought for $200.00 and R. R.'s within 100 miles. So mote it be." Yours in haste,

AHAZ.

[Accompanying the above letter was a note which says: "People in this region believe you are with the B. & M., and will not print the article." As to the first part of the sentence, "the people" are correct—we are "with the B. & M." so far as the B. & M. is right and is of general good; but to the second proposition, the people of that region or of any other, have no reason to suppose that the HERALD is not open to the *just* criticisms of any corporation or any persons. We know nothing of the matters mentioned in the above communication—never heard of them before—but judging from the tone of the letter itself we conclude that our friend "Ahaz" is a little bit "riled," and probably allows his passion to get a little the better of his judgment. He evidently does so when he intimates that the people of that region would ride a hundred miles to reach some other road before they would ride on the B. & M. We leave it to the better judgment of our friend if that does not sound like "child's play." Suppose some individual in the employ of the B. & M. has committed a wrong against the settlers. It seems to us that the carrying out of the above threat is like a small boy refusing to eat his supper because he had a fit of the "dumps." Our correspondent is a man of too much sense and good judgment to have allowed a thing of this kind to appear in print had it not been written without due consideration; and we are tempted to "not publish it" *on his account*, for we have much respect for him, but fear our motives might be misinterpreted. Our friend does not show, in his letter, even that any employee of the company has committed a wrong—he only indicates that some one connected with the road has complained to the district attorney that timber was being taken unlawfully, which he admits He does not state who this was, and perhaps he may be mistaken in the man. One thing our correspondent does admit—and we are pleased to see his ordinary sense of justice appear in that clause—and that is that the B. & M. company are doing much to advertise the State and bring in settlers. We should have published the letter of our friend without comment had he not indicated a doubt of our doing so on the supposition that we were friends to the B. & M Co.—We desire to disabuse his mind, as well as the minds of all others who may be laboring under a similar mistake The HERALD *never* allows its friendships to interfere with its sense of justice, not even to favor the B. & M or its very much esteemed friend "Ahaz.—ED. HERALD.]

NORTH CAROLINA ELECTION.

The following dispatch from Washington, dated the 4th, shows large Republican gains in the recent election in North Carolina:

"Returns from North Carolina, received by the Executive Committee here, indicate partially the defeat of the convention party and the triumph of the Republicans. Wake county, in which is the city of Raleigh, gives a Republican gain of 200: Halifax county, 100; Mecklenburg county, 514. Dispatches say that the conventionists admit the defeat of ex-Governor Holden, who is here.—He received many telegrams, and says he is confident that the convention is defeated by about ten thousand majority"

A Willmington, N. C., dispatch of the 5th, says:

"The indications seem more favorable to day for the defeat of the convention by a small majority. The Republicans claim the State by from five to fifteen thousand majority, while the conservatives still think the issue doubtful, with the chances in their favor. Returns have been received from only about one-third of the counties, and they are not official."

Court sets in this city on Monday the 11th day of September.

LETTER FROM OREGON.

The Country, People, Crops, Climate, Wages, Markets, Etc.

PORTLAND, OREGON, July 31, '71.

PLATTSMOUTH HERALD:—Many of your readers having wished me to write, giving them a discription of our journey and this locality, I thought it best to make short work of it—using your paper (with your approval) as the circulating medium.

The ground between Omaha and the Rocky Mountains has often been gone over through your columns, and I will not detain your readers long over an old story; but would say that the agricultural part might be said to extend from the Missouri river perhaps back 150 to 200 miles, the greater objection being lack of wood and water; and from this point to fifty miles west of North Platte, good grazing country. I was told by an old Texan stock raiser who had much experience in this country and was driving a drove through from Texas to some point 200 miles north of the U. P. that his cattle had gained in flesh with hard driving since reaching Nebraska. If this be true, this part of the State will be no less valuable than the eastern portion. We then passed over a desolate and poor looking country which I pronounce a failure—having no vegetation of any discription for miles, or anything that would look like sustaining life. We are now, perhaps, 350 miles from Omaha. The towns that we are passing through consist generally of about two or three houses, those being section houses, etc., belonging to the railroad. Every train is supplied with firearms for passengers to protect themselves in case of emergency. We pass through this barren and lifeless country for about 100 miles; we then strike a tolerable good grazing country; one peculiar feature of the grass is that it will burn any time of year when not covered with snow or dampness.

Cheyenne lies high and dry out on the open prairie, there being but little timber within sight, and like most of the plain towns has little or nothing to support a city. Passing Cheyenne fifteen miles we come to barren rocks; scarce any sign of vegetation presents itself which continues until reaching Laramie plains, which are from 6000 to 8000 feet above the sea. Here we found the need of overcoats when stepping out of the car, being quite a change, as it was something over a hundred in the shade in Omaha the day we left, only a few hours before. Snow storms are not uncommon, I am told, during the summer months, or any month during the year. The scenery from Cheyenne to Laramie is grand. Laramie plains extend, I should judge, fifty miles, and is a handsomer looking country.

At Carbon are to be seen the smoking coal mines which have been burning since last fall; splendid coal is obtained. From here we pass through hundreds of miles of worthless country. I think the U. P. will hardly get rich out of their Land Grant, through this section; there is neither grass, wood nor water—nothing but sage brush and prickly pears; but as we near Ogden the country grows more interesting being rough and mountainous. The road passes through some abrupt and dangerous looking places; perhaps you look out on one side of the car and behold mountains reaching to a great height, on the other side you will look down into some deep abyss, hundreds of feet. The trains run very fast down grade, which is all the way from Bryan for 140 miles. Some of the way the grades are very heavy on this section. The scenery, most of the way, is of the most romantic character, exceeding that of the Hudson in that respect, but not in beauty. We will leave them in all their grandeur and pass on to Ogden; and what do we find here, the terminus of the U. P.? an old looking town of very little importance, composed of about 3,000, mostly mormons. The town is constructed of sun-dried brick, principally, and is over twenty years of age, but I should judge from the appearance of things, had never been much of a town for business.—Still we are in range of Chicago although over 1,200 miles from there, and only about 800 miles from San Francisco.—Pretty much all purchases are made in Chicago. There are many shade trees here, which, with the running water in all the principal streets, are the only enticing features that Ogden would have for me. There is no building going on here, although it is the terminus of three railroads.

Next comes an observation of the Great Salt Lake Valley which I must confess I was more disappointed in than I ever was in any locality. This has always been upheld as one of the richest and most productive portions of the United States, producing often 60 bushels of wheat per acre. The wheat when I left Plattsmouth was about three feet high, some higher; here I found it 8 to 10 inches and very sickly looking at that. Grass on the open praire grows in small bunches, instead of the large, luxuriant growth I expected to see.—The largest corn I saw was not over 12 inches, and much that did not look to have been out of the ground more than two weeks. Such is the Great Salt Lake Valley as seen along the W. N. and C. P. Railroads. After leaving Ogden fifty miles, we come again to that tedious and mountainous, sandy waste, only still worse, being even destitute of sage brush—traveling miles through a country as naked as any road you can find in your country, neither do we find anything much better until reaching Truckee, in the edge of the Nevada mountains.—Never did timber look so delightful.—After several days of nothing but barren desolate scenery, then to behold the mighty pines of the Nevadas, was certainly a pleasant and agreeable sight.—From here commences the snow sheds, which are the most aggravating thing of the whole journey, as one is passing through the most delightful scenery of the whole trip and can get only occasional glimpses.

The sheds here are 40 miles in length; at about the summit of the mountains is to be seen Donner Lake, located in a basin, many hundred, and I might safely say thousands, of feet below. There is a beach road all the way around the lake which must be a most beautiful drive.—Many people from Sacramento and San Francisco spend their summers here, and a pleasant place I should think it would be, as the air is perfectly delightful—being pure and bracing. As we descend the mountains we come in sight of the old gold regions of California; many, many are the acres that have been torn up in pursuit of the precious dust. As we pass down towards Colfax we are flying past orchards and meadows of the finest appearance, peach trees are loaded, also fruit trees of all varieties.

From Colfax we soon reach the great Sacramento valley, which is a most beautiful section of country, being perfectly level and covered with scattering trees, looking at a distance like an old mammoth orchard. From Sacramento to San Francisco I saw nothing worthy of note.

As we near Frisco the air grows damp and cool, as it always is in San Francisco—the peculiar feature of the place.—And let me here correct an erroneous idea in regard to the climate of California. It is generally understood that it is cool in summer and warm in winter; this is true in some localities, such as are surrounded pretty much by water. In the valleys, back from the sea, it is warm in the winter and excessively hot in summer sometimes running as high as a hundred and thirty. On the mountains it is cool in summer and cold with much snow in winter.

While you may see furs and overcoats worn in San Francisco, at Sacramento, little over a hundred miles distant, people may be wearing linen coats, straw hats, and panting for a cool breath of air, with the mercury at 112° in the shade. I cannot say that I like the climate of San Francisco. The sun will shine quite warm in the morning; about ten o'clock a gale will spring up form the north-west, chilling one like a December wind; this occurs every day without exception, I am told. It is always foggy in the morning, sometimes thick enough to obscure the sight of the sun. Now, as to the towns one passes through; there is little or no improvement going on in any of them. Corrine is growing some, but a cheap class of buildings, looking to be only transient affairs.—This is the outfitting point for Idaho and Montana; but as soon as the Northern Pacific is completed their trade in this direction is at a close. I think Ogden is the largest point, of which I have given you a description. The towns, as a general thing, are of little or no importance. Sacramento is a handsome place, of about fifty thousand; San Francisco something over one hundred thousand, and the dullest city of its size I ever saw. There is block after block of the finest architecture and finish without an occupant, stancing there for rent. The Pacific railroad has been the cause of their death, as Chicago has established trade with towns, even within one hundred miles of them, selling goods as cheap as the San Francisco merchants can afford. Chicago, like the big fish, seems disposed to eat up all the smaller ones. I am told by one of the merchants in this city that agents offer to land goods on the dock from Chicago just as cheap as he can buy them in San Francisco. It is a city that has no end to its aspirations.—We were in San Francisco the 4th, and a great time they had; but the best that I saw was the exhibition of the 49-ers. They had a banner marked "the golden times of forty-nine," and a rough looking class they were. These men have pretty much all seen the day that they possessed wealth, but the majority are a poor people now, having squandered their money in gambling and riotous living.

Fare from Omaha has three grades; first $100; second, $75; and third class $50. Meals on the road are 75 cents to $1. We had partly enough lunch with us, and I would advise all coming across the continent from Omaha to try and bring enough to last them through, or they may stand a chance to pay a big price, and many times get only a moderate recompense for their money.

Leaving the busy scenes of the unfortunate Frisco, I would invite you to follow us through our journey on the briny deep. As we passed the golden gate it was calm and pleasant; but upon reaching the point of land extending into the sea north of the gate, we found a gale blowing from the northwest which soon caused a part of our party to feel. I suppose, as the whale did who swallowed Jonah. The next morning it was blowing a perfect tempest, and I found to my great surprise that it was inclined to be mountainous between San Francisco and Portland. This blow continued until the morning we entered the Columbia river. Nearly every one on board was sea-sick, even some of the old sailors. I have heard of the grandeur of being on a rough sea out of sight land, and I must acknowledge my incapacity of enjoying the scene. Never had it been my lot to experience a more dreary and desolate looking sight than to be tossed about as we were for a whole day, out of sight of land with nothing but whitecaps to be seen as far as the eye could reach, while we were running up one hill and down another.—We saw one whale, one shark, seal after seal, and sea lions, in great numbers, also saw one black fish. The whale I should judge was about twenty feet long. He was playing in the water, and at one time jumped two-thirds of his length out of the water. This was quite a sight for a prairie lad. The shark was about ten feet long, looked to be of a greenish color; his nose seemed to be the largest part of him, and his eyes in the end of it. The sea lion is a curious animal. At a rocky island, near the mouth of the Columbia, we saw, I should judge, one hundred of them lying out on the shore sunning themselves. As soon as we were within sufficient distance we could hear them roar, which was not unlike that of a lion—hence originates their name. As we came nearer they commenced jumping into the water, and before we were opposite the island all that were in sight had reached the water, presenting a curious spectacle as they all kept their heads out of the water, and still kept up their roaring.—A few hours from here we find ourselves within the banks of the happy Columbia. I cannot say as much about the scenery of this river as I would like, the distance being made mostly in the night. Astoria is the port of entry; is an old looking place, with about 1,200 inhabitants. Soon after you enter the Columbia river you can behold Mount Hood, distant nearly one hundred and fifty miles, showing that winter still holds its grasp, as it is perpetually covered with snow. The morning of July 11 at 5 o'clock finds us at last at our journey's end. Our trip, having been through 300 miles of good agricultural country, 150 miles in Nebraska, 150 in California,—perhaps I have made the allowance too small in California—but not much I think. The rest of our way was through desert, pineries and water. Never had I an idea, until within the past few weeks, that the western part of this continent was composed of almost one complete desert, as it certainly is, and it is my humble opinion that the day is not far distant when one can sing "no more land has Uncle Sam to give us all a home;" in fact the most desirable lands are already sought out.

Now, as to Portland, I can say by it like this: that it is a very busy and enterprising town, growing beyond all description—has about ten thousand inhabitants, and is a handsome place, laying in the valley, the mountains coming up to the city's border on the west, but are several miles from the river on the east. The town is principally built on the west side. There are from ninety to one hundred buildings under course of construction, at present; some ten business blocks, some of them very fine, iron fronts, also some of the dwellings are very nice, costing, in some cases, twenty-five thousand dollars. The blocks are composed mostly of brick; the dwellings, without exception, are of wood. There are less poor buildings here than in any other town that I have ever visited of the same size. They are a very wealthy class of people, but are not showy, except in buildings and fine grounds. The town is nicely ornamented with shade trees, being mostly maple. The country is naturally covered with evergreens; they are all cut down and maple, ash and elm put in their places. Scarce any evergreens are to be found in the town. Yard trees are mostly fruit trees, and I will here mention that I have lived in Michigan, Rochester, and other fruit districts, but this goes ahead of anything for fruit that I have ever seen. Trees that were set out last fall some of them are found loaded now; and this I am told is a common occurrence. Trees can be bought here at twenty-five cents apiece; set them out in the fall—say fifty trees—the next season you will have considerable fruit, and the second season you will get all that a moderate sized family would want.—Trees bear every year. This is not a common thing in most other countries. Pears do splendidly here, in fact every kind of fruit raised in the temperate zones with the exception of Peaches,—(they will grow here to some little extent but do not have the sweet, fine flavor that they obtain in California). Apples and cherries are better here than in California. I call this apple paradise, as they seem to reach nearer a state of perfection than in any other place I ever have been; and cherries, the finest the world can produce. All kinds of small fruits do exceedingly well here, such as currants, blackberries raspberries ect.—Blackberries grow wild in great profusion. The lay of the land about Portland is neither handsome or picturesque—is covered with a heavy growth of cedar and fir, which is used for building purposes. After going out some eight or ten miles you strike a good farming country. The prairies are of a limited character. You will not find the unbounded extent as in Nebraska. East of the Cascade mountains you find boundless prairies. This is supposed to be a healthier portion of the State; but they have more winter, more snow; but there is not as much of a rainy season; water and timber are scarce.

Now as to the commercial advantages Portland has (which are its only dependence for making a large city). It is the centre of commerce for the whole northwest. The wholesaleing for the entire State is mostly done here, as emigration to Oregon strikes this point first. Tickets are always sold to Portland from San Francisco. There are some 15 wholesale houses here, where no retailing is done, which speaks well for the locality, as there are no more in Rochester, New York, a city of some sixty five thousand. The North Pacific Company have thirty-seven steamboats, the Columbia Navigation Company about the same, besides foreign trade, making over 80 vessels and steamers that make this point their head centre. One railroad completed one hundred miles south, two more graded, one north toward Puget sound, (the great humbug), these two they are at work on—the other running southwest. The branch from the North Pacific down the Columbia, also a branch from the M. P. leaving Evenston coming up Snake river and terminating at this point. Operations have not been commenced on the latter two roads, making this the terminus of five railroads. Enough has been said, I think, in regard to the location of this point. Now, in regard to the climate, I can say some things in praise and some that will be of no credit; although I think you have had the dark side of Oregon presented to you in former letters, still it is my desire to give my friends both sides of the picture as nearly as my judgement will permit, both the advantages and disadvantages. The rainy season usually, I am told, sets in about the middle to the last of November,—sometimes setting in the first and sometimes not until the last of December, but these are exceptional cases. It usually discontinues from the middle of April to the middle of May—this season was an exception, lasting until sometime in June. During this time there is no snow to speak of, but plenty of mud. Every country has its drawbacks, and the great amount of rain is the disagreeable part here. It does not rain all the time in the rainy season, as there will be at times, perhaps two weeks, with nice sunshining weather; but I understand this is not usually the case.

I am told that there has been times in the rainy season that there would be three months that the sun would not shine out bright. Every one speaks of the rainy season being so disagreeable, and I think it must be. Any one coming must make this allowance and prepare for the worst. To ballance this we have the most beautiful summers, cool, refreshing nights, and a cool breeze during the day from the north-west.—There is no wind at any season of the year, but a gentle breeze every day.—That is one fault I find with Nebraska; if the wind did not blow a perfect hurricane from the south in summer, there was not a breath of air, it seemed, to be got,—and the air was accompanied by a hot, suffocating feeling, one that would cause a person to feel more dead than alive. Such is not the case here. The hottest day that there has been here since I arrived was 75° in the shade; then about 4 o'clock the air began to cool off and the night was comfortable for sleep. The hottest weather ever known here was 98° in the shade, and that is referred to as the hot season. The idea that there is no rain here in the summer is not correct, as there has been two little showers within the past few days.—There is no lightning, no sudden changes from one year's end to another. The summers are all that heart could desire; it is not a billious country, which people show by their complexion as they are much lighter than in your State. I consider this a very healthy country, judging from what I have seen. I have seen one man that has had the ague. There was a good cause for that, as he worked in the water mining for three years, and is now paying for his gold The air is very clear. A person cannot judge in the least of distances by observation; many who have just come think of walking to Mount Hood, which is 60 miles, and one would be assured by appearance that it was not more than ten. This mountain has a bad habit of smoking occasionally. It is covered with snow the year round, presents a picturesque appearance, and is visible from almost any part of this country. Mount St. Helen, to the northward, presents another snow clad head, distant 75 miles.

Prices range like this: wheat, $1 25; oats, 60c; corn is not raised; eggs, 40c; butter, 35c—can be contracted by the year at 30c; cattle and pork about the same as with you.

A fortune lays silently waiting for some live Yankee to come in here and start the dairy business.

Vegetables are quite high, such as 21 cents for a head of cabbage of medium size; fruit is cheap here in the fall—apples, any amount, at 25 to 30c per bushe; pears, 40 to 50c; apples on the tree—pick them yourself—15c; potatoes 25c; cherries, 5c per pound.

Farmers in this country are a lazy, indolent set. There is very little winter here to prepare for. Cattle are often not stall fed during the winter, consequently they can live without much exertion. Wherever you find this the case people will grow slothful and lazy, also the first settlers of any country are apt to be a shiftless set, caring more for hunting than their farms; but as the country settles up this class seek other and newer localities; already they are selling out and emigrating to the mountains east. There are splendid chances for farming here; the grain brings a good price; it is shipped direct to Liverpool. Wheat produces from 20 to 50 bushels per acre—20 bushels being considered a poor yield. The crop has never failed—you are as sure of a good recompense as you are that you put in your grain. No hail or heavy rain storms come to annoy or ruin the sturdy farmer; he does not go to bed at night with the anxiety on his mind that, perhaps during the night a heavy storm may come up laying waste the fruits of his hard day's work that may happen to have been left exposed to the elements. Another thing to his advantage is that he is not working under the heat of a scalding sun, but cool and pleasant. Tame grasses, such as clover and timothy, do exceedingly well. Land is quite high in some localities, ranging as high as 40 dollars per acres; still there is plenty to be got much cheaper. Mechanical wages in Portland are good.—Carpenters get from $4.00 to $4.50 per day, painters about the same, plasterers and bricklayers $5.00 to $6 00—the latter getting the highest—other mechanics get about in proportion, common laborers get from two to 3.50, hod carriers getting the highest. Common hands on brick yards get 40 dollars per month with board, moulder $80 with board; nothing but coin in circulation here or any where west of Utah; there are no five cent pieces; anything that is not worth 10 cents is not worth having,—and in making change if you can come within five cents it is thought to be near enough; but that will change as the country gets older. Tea and coffee are much cheaper here than with you; coffee 5½ lbs for one dollar, a good article; best tea $1.00 per lb, sugar from 5½ to 11lbs for $1. Taking everything combined living I think is cheaper here than in Nebraska and a much greater variety to choose from. Board is five dollars at boarding houses, six at hotels. Times are good, and money plenty.

House rent,—house 16x24, story and a half, 20 dollars per month. City property is very high; residence lots from $250 to $1.500. The cost of building is about the same as in Plattsmouth. Some kinds of lumber are as high as with you, such as siding flooring and finishing; common lumber and framing $12.00.—The low price in lumber here is made up in prices of mechanical work, so the cost would be about the same of building here as in Nebraska.

I can think of no more that would be of interest to any of your readers, so I will close wishing to convey the idea that Oregon is not so bad a State to come to, after all; and Portland not so bad a town, as there is employment for every one and at a good, fair recompense. I shall make a trip to Puget Sound soon, and then you shall hear from me again; in the meantime don't think Puget Sound too big a humbug, lest you be humbugged yourself, as its locality is attracting the attention of some of the best business men on the coast.

Yours truly,

HENRY DEGARMO.

J. H. Buttery has a fine assortment of Carbolic Soaps, embracing bath, toilet and different kinds of medicated soap. This soap is justly popular, being the best known for the skin, effectually curing nearly all kinds of skin diseases.

Business has been improving for the past two weeks.

Remember the great Sale of Lots by S. Duke, on the 4th of September.

STREET PREACHING.

Rev. G. J. ARNOLD of Iowa, with the assistance of the Ministers of this place, will hold religious services on the street every evening this week. Good seats will be provided.

Gen. J. M. Hedrick, of the Ottumwa *Courier*, Supervisor of Internal Revenue for the District of Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico, is in the city on business to-day. The Gen. finds many Ottumwa people in this place.

T. W. Shryock, Esq., has commenced suit against the City for damage to his property on Main street during the secent high waters. If Mr. Shryock should gain his suit fifty others will be commenced inside of ten days.

Wm. Stadelmann has a specimen of soft rock taken from his quarry south of the city, which indicates a very excellent article of building stone, easy to work, and similar in character to the celebrated magnesian lime stone used in the State Capital building.

We devote a large amount of space to-day to Mr. DeGarmo's letter, believing it will be read with interest by a large portion of our readers.

Judge A. L. Child has our thanks for a copy of the American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb, a very interesting quarterly, published under the auspices of the National Deaf Mute College, Washington, D. D, and edited by Edward A. Fay. Price, $1.50 per annum

Railroad Time Table.

B. & M. R. R IN NEBRASKA.

WESTWARD	STATIONS.	EASTWARD
TRAIN NO 1.		TRAIN NO 3
Lv. 10.00 A. M.	Plattsmouth.	Ar. 3.45 P. M
Lv. 10.25 A. M.	Omaha Junc.	Ar. 3.20 P. M
Lv. 10.50 A. M.	Louisville.	Ar. 3.00 P. M
Lv. 11.05 A. M.	South Bend.	Ar. 2.48 P. M
Ar. 11.30 A. M.	Ashland	Ar. 2.25 P. M
Ar. 11.45 "	Greenwood	Ar. 2.10 "
Ar. 12 00 p m	Waverly	Ar. 1.50 "
Ar. 12.12 "	Newton	Ar. 1.45 "
Ar. 12.30 "	Lincoln	Lv. 1.30 "
Lv. 2.00 "	Lincoln	Ar 12.00 "
Lv. 2.40 "	Denton	Ar. 11.25 "
Lv. 2.20 "	Hickland	Ar. 10.50 "
Ar. 3.40 "	Crete	Lv. 10.20 "
Ar. 4.20 "	Dorchester	Lv. 9.56 "
TRAIN NO. 3.		TRAIN NO. 4.
Lv. 4.45 P. M.	Plattsmouth.	Ar. 9.00 A. M.
Lv. 5.35 P. M.	Omaha Junc.	Ar. 8.20 A. M.
Lv. 6.25 P. M.	Louisville.	Ar. 7.45 A. M.
Lv. 6.55 P. M.	South Bend.	Ar. 7.20 A. M.
Ar. 7.45 P. M.	Ashland.	Lv. 6.40 A. M.
Ar. 8.15 "	Greenwood	Ar. 6.10 "
Ar 8.40 "	Waverly	Ar. 5.50 "
Ar. 9.00 "	Newton	Ar. 5.30 "
Ar. 9.30 "	Lincoln	Lv. 5.00 "
Lv. 6.00 a m	Lincoln	Lv. 8.00 p m
Lv. 6.40 "	Denton	Ar. 7.25 "
Lv. 7.20 "	Highland	Ar. 6.50 "
Lv. 7.40 "	Crete	Lv. 6.20 p m
Ar 8.20 "	Dorchester	Lv. 5.50 "

The time given above is that of Plattsmouth, being 38 minutes slower than Chicago.

B. & M. R. R.

ARRIVE.

Pacific Express.—except Monday	8.45 a. m.
Mail—Except Sunday	10.40 p. m.
Freight No. 5—except Sunday	2.00 p. m.
Freight No. 7 except Sunday	5.30 p. m

DEPART.

Atlantic Express—except Saturday	3.15 p. m.
Mail—except Sunday	6.25 a. m.
Freight, No. 6 except Sunday	12.50 p m
Freight No 8	7.10 p. m.

The above is Chicago time, being 38 minutes faster