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The growth of this state is shown as much by the development of the country press as any other one element in its advancement. With three exceptions, every county in the state is supplied with local papers. To our knowledge many of the little sheets on the far frontier began their existence when there was scarcely a settlement in which to set up the cases or a roof to protect the old hand press from the storms. Much of the remarkable growth of our state has been due to the advertising given it by the country press and to the persistent work of the country editor. He has "boomed" new towns with the desperation of despair, constructed thousands of miles of railroad on paper, praised the salubrity of its climate in his columns while urging cordwood in exchange for subscriptions from his patrons, and flushed with local pride has sustained the wavering fortunes of the community in which he has cast his lot until victory has perched on the banners of local enterprise. Nebraska has every reason to be proud of her country press. Take it as a whole, it is surpassed by few of its neighbors. It is newsy, patriotic and aggressive. Its members may abuse each other in print, but they have a wholesome respect for the fraternity outside of the editorial rooms. On most questions it is consistently found on the side of the people, and always arranged in favor of home interests and morality in the community. The country press deserves and should receive warm support at its home. The job room should get the local printing instead of offices fifty miles off. The editor has a right to expect the confidence and patronage of the community until he shows that he deserves neither. The first paper to be taken in every community should be the home paper.—Omaha Bee.

GEN. BEAUREGARD has issued in circular form an "explanation" concerning his relations and those of General Early with the Louisiana lottery scheme. Even a southern newspaper the Florida Times-Union, says of the attitude of these two generals that "Blind Belisarius begging his bread in the streets of Rome was a far nobler spectacle than that presented by these old generals living in comfort on the wages of guilded iniquity."

The use of petroleum as a fuel on Russian railroad lines is almost general.

Last year there were 120,000,000 gallons of wine sold in Paris.

YESTERDAY the largest freight train and the greatest number of loaded railway cars ever hauled to this city and perhaps to any other, by a single locomotive came in last night over the Mississippi Valley railroad. The train started from Wilson, on that road, yesterday morning with sixty-two cars of cotton and two caboose cars, in which were some passengers. Wilson is in Mississippi, 153 miles north of this city. At Slaughter and Ethel, the next two stations on the road, eighty-eight cars were picked up, making 150 loaded freight cars, two cabooses and one locomotive. Of these 134 cars were loaded with cotton, ten carried staves and the other six were loaded with general produce. The locomotive was a ten-wheel engine with six drivers four feet six inches in diameter and weighs fifty tons. Its cylinders are eighteen inches in diameter, with twenty-four inch stroke. It was run on this special occasion by Mr. Ed. Anderson, master mechanic of the Mississippi Valley road. The length of the train as coupled together, the cars standing close together, was one mile and ninety feet, or 1,750 yards long, and when the train was drawn out full length the slack or play of the coupling links and draw heads made it 235 feet longer. The train was accompanied by Superintendent M. Burke of this division of the road, and by Mr. William Marshall, master of transportation, and Mr. H. G. Barrow, a clerk in the railway's freight office in this city, who was telegraphed for to check up and figure out the freight. The total weight of freight carried was 1,844,831 pounds, while the gross weight of the freight and train was 5,442,831 pounds. There were 4,627 bales of cotton on board the train. This is the champion trip, and it will be hard to beat.—New Orleans Picayune.

SINCE natural gas became so abundant in Pittsburg the people have noticed that their gaslights have become poorer and poorer, and many have had to eke out their jets with kerosene lamps. It is said to have been discovered that the gas men are mixing natural gas with the manufactured article. It don't give any light but it assists with great energy in turning the meter, takes more than half the labor off the tired, overworked coal gas, in fact.

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JAS. LAIRD, of Hastings, Neb., congressman from that state, was a guest in this city, the first of the week, of his uncle, I. Beyea, and his family. The principal object of his visit was to see his mother, who has been at Mr. Beyea's for some time past, and who is in quite poor health. He departed on Wednesday evening for Washington, in order to be on hand at the convening of Congress next Monday.—Gilman (Ill.) Star.

It is developed that the occasion of hydrophobia among the sheep of Mr. Gast near DeWitt, was the bite of a skunk. At this time of the year the skunk is not only absolutely fearless, but seems animated with a spirit of mischief. It often wanders around to see what it can bite, and whatever it finds asleep it assaults. It invariably bites gently on the nose, with scarcely enough violence to awaken a sleeping man, but that touch is fatal. The inevitable end is the most horrible of deaths. Quite a number of cases have occurred in the western part of this state in which men have been thus bitten and died. It seems that in the case of Mr. Gast's sheep the same skunk must have inoculated most of them.—Topics.

MUCH apprehension has been manifested in the west in regard to the scope of Commissioner Sparks' recent decision to the effect that homestead claimants who had previously had the benefit of the pre-emption cannot "commute" their homestead claim. Members of congress have received many letters on the subject indicating a widespread fear that this decision was to be made retroactive, which would have the effect of upsetting the titles to many claims which had passed by purchase into the hands of third parties. Senator Van Wyck on behalf of many of his constituents recently made inquiry of General Sparks in regard to the matter and was informed that the decision would, unless reversed by higher authority, be a guide for the future action of land offices, but that the commissioner was not inclined to go into the actions of his predecessors nor interfere with claims which had already been secured under former rulings of the land office in this respect unless fraud should be shown to have been perpetrated in securing such claims.



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