

THE DAILY BEE.

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Ten thousand celestials were drowned by a recent flood in China. That's enough to make a Californian smile.

The universal tribute to the memory of Grant demonstrates that the American people are hero worshippers.

The fact that a gigantic Indian speosure is said to be parading about the Shoshone agency in Wyoming territory, terrifying the red men, leads the Boston Advertiser to say that it can be seen most clearly through a glass of whiskey.

Mayor Vaughan, of Council Bluffs, is still in the field for the democratic nomination for governor. He will not be completely set down upon until the 19th, when the state convention meets at Cedar Rapids.

We are glad to hear that there is no truth in the rumor that the Union Pacific has purchased the franchise for that new bridge. The men who own the franchise say that they have not sold out, as they wish to live in Omaha for a few years more.

The United States senators in the Grant funeral procession were paired so as to have each couple composed of a senator from the north and one from the south. Senator Manderson, of Nebraska, and Senator Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, were paired in this way.

The manner in which a great deal of the street rapping is done is simply a waste of money. This is the case on streets on the hill-side, where every rain washes out the dirt that has been filled into the holes and gullies. This waste of money will continue until the streets running up Capitol hill are paved.

We have always labored under the impression that valuation is cheap, but it comes rather high at St. Joe. It will cost the citizens of that place \$5,000 to bring Rrv. Sam. Jones there to stir up and convert the heathen. But as Mr. Jones draws a bigger crowd than a circus or a state fair, it will probably prove a profitable investment. By the way, why would it not be a good thing to induce Sam. Jones to come to Omaha and inaugurate the expansion building, upon its completion this fall, with a grand revival?

The old "recess" in Charleston, South Carolina, are still unrepentant and unconstructed. On the day of Grant's funeral there was no demonstration by the white people. Charleston was the hot-bed of secession, and it was there that the opening gun of the rebellion was fired. The conduct of the people of Vicksburg on the other hand was in pleasing contrast with that of the citizens of Charleston. Although Vicksburg suffered from a terrible siege at the hands of Gen. Grant they paid a worthy tribute to his memory on last Saturday.

The wheat crop of the United States this year according to the latest and most reliable estimates will fall short of last year's production by about 204,000,000 bushels. But last year's crop was so enormous that the price in many parts of the country was actually less than the cost of production. The farmers have devoted a larger share of their efforts this year to the production of other crops, and unexpected weather damage has still further reduced the yield. But the product for the year is estimated at 325,000,000 bushels, and that, with the surplus left over from last year, will comfortably feed 50,000,000 people.

The production of the Russian petroleum field, which is rapidly increasing, is evidently destined at no distant day to drive American petroleum from many of the leading markets of Europe, where it has until quite recently enjoyed a monopoly. One of the heaviest operators in Pennsylvania, who not long ago went to Russia to examine the phenomenal oil wells, or spouters, at Bakur, has returned with the conviction that Russia has the biggest oil wells in the world. The wells are operated by the Nobel company. The production of the Bakur wells at present is between 30,000 and 35,000 barrels a day, which can be increased to 50,000 barrels a day. From 1879, when the development of this oil field was begun, until the opening of the present year, the Nobel wells, now numbering forty-two, have produced 4,600,000 barrels. During 1884 about 1,900 barrels of refined oil were shipped out of Russia daily. This year the quantity will be increased to 3,500 or 4,000 barrels a day. The Nobel company started in with a capital of \$120,000, and now employs \$10,000,000. Of course it dictates the prices of Russian oil, and does business on a plan somewhat similar to our own gigantic monopoly, the Standard Oil company. It is to Russia that the Standard is to this country.

THE MONTANA TRADE.

The jobbers of Omaha have up to this time enjoyed a large trade in the rich territory of Montana, but unless they wake up they are liable to lose a considerable portion of it. The enterprising jobbers of St. Paul, who semi-annually make business trips in a body over their territory to visit their customers and to build up their trade, have laid their plans to capture nearly the entire patronage of Montana. These St. Paul dealers have just visited the principal towns of Montana, and have satisfied themselves of the richness of that field. They were particularly impressed with the thriving city of Butte, where wages amounting to over \$600,000, and paid to the miners every month, and where, in the language of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, the leading business establishments are metropolitan in their character and proportions and in the extent of their sales. No better measure, says this paper, can be given of the relative importance of Butte as a business center than the simple fact that its freight business furnishes nearly one-eighth of the aggregate gross earnings of the entire Union Pacific system. The Pioneer Press in urging the Northern Pacific to build a broad gauge line to Butte says:

It is a most unfortunate and extraordinary fact that nearly the entire business of this, the richest mining district in the world, lying right in the path of the Northern Pacific railroad and belonging legitimately to its territory, is now monopolized by the Union Pacific branch, called the Utah & Northern. This narrow gauge line, extended to Garrison, a distance of fifty-five miles, under the control of the jealous and hostile corporation, whose main line runs four or five hundred miles south, forms the only means of access from the Northern Pacific to Butte. We do not know what compromises or concessions were extorted from the Northern Pacific management, during the struggling infancy of that enterprise, by which it was compelled to surrender by far the most important and valuable business on its route to the greed of a rival which has to reach over four hundred miles out of its way to get it. It is said that the Union Pacific pays the Northern Pacific a large sum yearly to keep out the Butte. But no bribe, however large, can justify the neglect of the Northern Pacific to provide the business communities along its line with adequate facilities of communication with the markets of the world.

It is a public wrong to permit the Northern Pacific to extort exorbitant prices for this indispensable service. And the jobbers of St. Paul came away from there impressed with the conviction that there extension would be worth millions of dollars yearly to their own trade interests. In spite of a natural desire on the part of the carriers to secure the long haul, and in spite of pooling arrangements which great systems find necessary to keep the peace, traffic, when it assumes proportions so considerable as that of Butte has already reached, will choose and profit by the shortest route from point to point. It is inevitable that the through business of Butte will be carried over the Northern Pacific line.

Here, then, is certainly a matter which deserves the attention of the Union Pacific as well as of our wholesale dealers. If, as is charged, the Union Pacific has bribed the Northern Pacific to keep out of Butte, thus securing a monopoly and maintaining outrageous high rates, it strikes us that it is high time for the Union Pacific to change its methods of dealing with Montana. Now is the time to reduce the rates in order to regain the good will of the people of that territory, and if possible prevent the Northern Pacific from building into Butte. The moment that the Northern Pacific runs into Butte the Union Pacific will lose a large share of its Montana traffic, and at the same time the Omaha merchants will receive a heavy blow. Our wholesale trade, although in prosperous condition, is in no shape to experience any such loss of business as would very likely result from a Northern Pacific line to Butte. It behooves our jobbers to impress upon the Union Pacific the immediate necessity of a material reduction of Montana rates and the adoption of a very liberal policy in the future towards the business men of that territory.

The members of the St. Paul jobbers' union, among whom are some very rich and influential men, are bringing every pressure to bear on the Northern Pacific to build a branch to Butte. They realize the importance of capturing the trade that is tributary to that point. Now let the Union Pacific do its duty, and not wait for suggestions and petitions from the Omaha jobbers. Let it at once put down its rates. It has been enjoying a monopoly long enough, in fact, too long, and the people of Montana, groaning under excessive transportation tariffs, will hail with delight the advent of a new outlet which will give them competition in rates.

REWARDING FAITHFUL WORKMEN. The Scranton Steel company has adopted a very commendable system of encouraging continuous faithful work on the part of its employes. All employes who have worked for the company continuously, who have not at any time, nor in any way, left the company's service, who have not been discharged nor suspended for cause, and who have neither struck nor quit by their own voluntary act, will have the following percentages hereafter added to the amount of their monthly due bills:

When a man shall have worked for the company continuously, as above, for the period of one year, a bonus of 1 per cent. will be added to the amount of his due bill; on a half year, 1 1/2 per cent.; two years, 2 per cent.; two and a half years, 2 1/2 per cent.; and so on, one-half of one per cent. for each additional six months of continuous work, up to five years, after which the percentage of bonus will not be increased.

The works are assumed to have commenced operations in May, 1883, and percentages will date from that time to such men as are entitled to the same under the above conditions. This cus-

ANECDOTES OF GEN. GRANT.

Repugnance to Orientation—His Imperturbability—An Incident of Fort Donelson. Gen. Grant's repugnance to anything like a show of ostentation was one of his marked characteristics. Shortly after he settled down in New York city a noted artist desired to paint his portrait. Consent being gained, the artist called at the house for his first sitting. He is a man whose elegant deportment and aristocratic bearing are among his prominent characteristics. The general received his guest with a friendly and open manner, invited him to the parlor, where an easel was prepared and the work begun. There was a knock at the door. "Come in," said the general. It proved to be Mrs. Grant. She wanted money for marketing. The artist struck an attitude of haughty indifference at the case, while the general, who had just received his guest and had an open manner, invited him to the parlor, where an easel was prepared and the work begun. There was a knock at the door. "Come in," said the general. 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