

The Dispatch

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PITTSBURGH, THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 1890.

THAT BRITISH GOLD.

The very interesting interview with a Pittsburgh broker who has been studying, in London, the subject of English investments in American enterprises, fully presents some very important phases of the movement. Mr. Well's investigation shows, as THE DISPATCH has often declared was most likely to be the case, that the movement is largely a speculative one; that its proportions are exaggerated by the large number of unscrupulous agents who are trying to get into the market; and that there is a material inflation of the capital between the price at which the investor bids here and at which the water does not exceed the twenty per cent stated by Mr. Well, it is necessary to remark that the English investor gets off easier than his American brother.

On the other hand, as an indication of legitimate demand, it is an important theory that the talk of Continental agents leads to American investments. This brings in a factor which serves to explain the magnitude of the demand more adequately than any other that has yet been offered.

Nevertheless we imagine that our European friends, when they find that not a single one of the American companies in which they have put their money has a monopoly of its business, will claim that they have been swindled.

GROWING-WHOLESALE TRADE.

The activity which has crowded the railroads, stiffened up the iron and steel markets, and kept all our mills and furnaces in active operation, is shown by commercial reports to have extended to the mercantile trade. The wholesale interests especially are full of activity, and show a large and steadily increasing trade. One of the most gratifying indications of the growth and activity of the mercantile trade is the expansion of the wholesale trade which has taken place during the past few years. A little more than a generation ago Pittsburgh was the distributing point for a vast extent of territory. Ten years ago it had lost through railroad discriminations a great share of the trade. With improved transportation facilities it has regained a great portion of the old trade, and is still extending its wholesale connections. In proportion as, in the future, it provides itself with competing railroads, it will be able to expand the scope of its trade.

PETTY FAULT-FINDING.

The quality of some of the criticism visited upon President Harrison's administration is very thin and strained to an uncommonly fine degree. Here we have the New York Sun in a state of mild hysterics because Postmaster General Wansmaker invited the Pan-American delegates to his store, and then, out of a sudden, announced through the mail announcing the intended visit. But after reading all the clever and sharp things of the Sun apropos of this, about the "bargain counter" and the enormity of the Postmaster General's entertaining the delegates at his store as an advertisement of his business, we are moved to inquire wherein does the offense consist? Is it wrong for Mr. Wansmaker to stay in trade while Postmaster General? Why should he not have the privilege of inviting the Pan-Americans to see his store, just as they were invited to see other large business concerns in every city? Also, why should not Mr. Wansmaker's merchandise, had he full right to use the mails, Jones, Brown or Robinson, so long as he duly buys his postage stamps?

REDUCED RATES STILL GO.

The announcement of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road that it will accept a reduced rate on freight rates to North-western points, whether announced through tariffs or not, shows that the last attempt to screw up rates is meeting with no better success than its predecessors. This Western railroad is evidently determined to carry freight at rates which will stimulate the movement; and the results of such rates, as shown in the present traffic of the roads, certainly afford a good deal of justification for that policy. The repeated failure of the efforts to sustain arbitrary tariffs by agreement should begin to convince railroad managers that their only course is to put their charges on the basis fixed by legitimate and honest competition.

SWELLING NORTH DAKOTA.

The behavior of North Dakota has been so seemingly her admission to Statehood that we regret that some earnest clerk in Washington has given a chance to the main scuffer to eat a gibe at the new State. Of course it was accidental that the word "standard" was omitted from the official description of North Dakota's boundaries. The southern boundary of North Dakota is the seventh standard parallel, a line used by the Government surveyors. In the official description, however, by the omission of the word "standard" the new State was allowed to extend vaguely southward to the seventh parallel of latitude, that is within a short distance of the Equator.

have not asserted lately their ability to produce more bushels of wheat per acre than any of their competitors. In fact North Dakota, unless she is reserving herself for a supreme effort in the blizzard season, is showing unmistakable signs of a change of heart. It would be a pity, indeed, if the momentary enlargement of her boundaries by a slip of the pen should lead to a still greater growth of her head. We hope the cold weather will keep North Dakota calm. Because she cannot, really, expect to include the isthmuses of Panama, and all the intervening country, and in her majestic embrace.

THE POLITICAL GRAB GAME.

The usual result of the political grab game is forehanded in Montana by the discovery that the Democrats will be able to deadlock the State Senate, prevent it from proceeding to the election of the United States Senators, and thus stop all business until the session is over, when the Governor can appoint two Democratic Senators.

This is, of course, utterly at variance with the spirit of Republican institutions, but it is a desirable result of the party spirit which is always ready to take an unfair or dishonest chance to twist the result of elections to partisan advantage. One party slips in a few dishonest votes; the other secures the returning machinery and throws out the whole precinct, securing control of the State; the first then deadlocks the Legislature and declares that public business shall stop, and the choice of the people be defeated, and the machinery of government paralyzed until it is again able to do business.

In all this there is exhibited on both sides the utmost disregard as to whether the spirit of representative institutions is preserved or an honest expression of the will of the people secured. If there was a desire to secure honest and fair returns, it would be very easy to settle the primary contest on non-partisan grounds, and to go on with the results of that settlement without delay. But all that these politicians wish is to grab the offices; and honest government and fair returns may go hang so the party comes out on top.

The people, however, should recognize that popular government is impossible unless both parties unite to secure the honest result of an election. In other words, they should be American citizens before they are Republicans or Democrats. To secure that improvement, however, it may be necessary to clean out the present breed of politicians.

THE PREVALENCE OF MUD.

Complaints as to the bottomless condition of some of the unpaved streets are heard from various parts of the city. Reports of carriages stuck in the mud, and of wagons abandoned with their loads, are rare, and the general impression is corroborated, that of the pavements, the mud is at present something unprecedented. This is undoubtedly due to the remarkable rainy weather which has prevailed for the past two months, combined with the fact that heavy teaming for building operations has gone on as usual. In addition to that some of the worst cases are produced by the unfinished work on street improvements. Centre avenue, from Soho street, in the Thirtieth ward, nearly to Hilland, in the Twentieth, is impassable on account of severe excavation and grading, which, though producing a temporarily appalling condition, will work out into decided improvements by next year. Residents along such streets can console themselves as they wade with the hope of clean pavements next year.

A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

The spectacle of an attorney for the prosecution, called as a witness for the defense, was the singular one presented in the Cronin trial yesterday. The point sought to be established was that the defendant had been the beneficiary of taking the opposing counsel as a witness as to the facts of the case.

MUTUAL RIGHTS.

A good deal of criticism is being indulged in by some of the Philadelphia newspapers because the Pennsylvania Railroad is building a cut-off by which its through trains can go through directly to New York from a station this side of Philadelphia, leaving the latter city, as the Philadelphia papers put it, "on a side-track." To raise antagonism to the Pennsylvania Railroad because it seeks to provide the most direct route for its through business is not founded in justice. Neither Philadelphia nor any other city has the right to object to any railroad's providing the most direct route for traffic and from other points. It has the right to buy up its own facilities, and to improve them for its traffic, and to recognize the right of the corporation to do the same with its other business.

MARRIED A BARMAID.

The complaint of some clergymen that Christianity is making more progress in heathen Japan than in New York and Brooklyn, suggests the explanation that if Christianity took more pains to convince the poor people of our cities that its professors mean to live up to its principles, its progress might be more rapid.

ADOLPH THE CAR STOVE.

A Lesson Taught by the Recent Accident in Newburg. In spite of all that has been done to reform the method of heating cars, the telegraph brings us the news of a fatal accident with the old coal stove at Pittsburgh yesterday. If the method of heating cars is to be reformed, it will be cheaper in the future to confine their heat to the United States territory.

THE DEATH OF EDWARD DOTY.

The death of Edward Doty at Beaver Falls, Pa., last Tuesday, is a sad case. He was a member of several lodges in this city, and was a very respectable citizen. He was married to Mrs. Doty, a native of Beaver Falls, and they had several children. He was a member of the Grand Lodge of the Grand Orient of Pennsylvania, and was a very active member. He was a member of the Grand Lodge of the Grand Orient of Pennsylvania, and was a very active member. He was a member of the Grand Lodge of the Grand Orient of Pennsylvania, and was a very active member.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

What Alls the Carnegie Clock?—Charge it to November—Two Cases of Disappointment. WHAT is the matter with the chiming of the Carnegie Library Hall clock? Nobody can have heard the hour struck upon the bells in that beautiful store without feeling that something was wrong with the clock's temper. There is a jarring suspicion of discord in the clang of the bells; not enough to be called a downright discord, but apparent all the same, and unpleasantly so. Especially is it noticeable if one happens to be near the tower when the clock strikes.

WITH POE AND RAIN.

With fog and rain November tries To get the earth in sorry guise. The rain will wash the earth clean, And chase away the winter gray. And chase away the winter gray. That might delight our wearied eyes.

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After a while it happened that this good divine got into a very bright young man who had served his term in the penitentiary, and his enthusiasm in this regard was the subject of reformer's comment.

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JENNINGS' WANDERLASS.

A Fashionable Wedding at Butler, At a fashionable wedding at Butler, Pa., yesterday afternoon, a large and fashionable company gathered to assist at the marriage of his daughter, Miss Katharine McDonough, to Mr. John G. Jennings, son of R. D. Jennings, the widely known petroleum producer. Shortly after 3 o'clock the ceremony was performed by Rev. W. E. Oiler, of the Presbyterian Church. The bride wore a white silk dress, her ornaments being pearls and diamonds, the latter the gift of the groom. She carried a large bouquet of flowers, and was attended by her bridesmaids, Misses Margaret and Mary Jennings. The groom was in a dark suit, and was attended by his best man, Mr. John G. Jennings. The wedding party was very large, and the reception was given at the residence of the bride's parents.

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BORDER RAID BILLS.

Argument Showing Why the National Government Should Pay Them—Much Interest in the Subject.—The State Comptroller, Messrs. and Organisms. SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. CHAMBERSBURG, November 20.—The proposed arrival of the Border Raid Commission, to make preliminary arrangements for the collection of the claims of the thousands of people who suffered losses by the destruction of property by the Confederate army, attracted a large number of persons to this town to-day. When the train carrying the commission reached the Chambersburg Railway station, a crowd of several hundreds had congregated in the vicinity. Carriages were in waiting for the visitors, who were taken to the Wilson Female College, and shown the operations of that progressive institution. Subsequently Governor Beaver, Senator Penrose, Representative Hall, and others, were present. The commission was organized at the residence of Hon. Thad Mahon by the election of Governor Beaver, Chairman; B. M. Nead, of Harrisburg, Secretary; and Messrs. Skinner, of Fulton, Treasurer. After discussion as to the most feasible means to obtain a favorable consideration from the National Government of the claims of the thousands of people in the border counties, who sustained losses by the rebel invasion of Pennsylvania, a motion was adopted authorizing the Chair to appoint a committee of three persons to prepare a report on the subject. The committee will be the performers of the evening.

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