

The Senate Oregon Bill

MINORITY REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE. On Tuesday, the Senate bill for the admission of Oregon being reported to the House...

Views of a Minority of the Committee on Territories, on the application of the people of Oregon for admission into the Union.

By section 3d, article 4th of the Constitution it is provided that "New States may be admitted by Congress into the Union." The time and manner of admission are therefore left by the Constitution wholly to the discretion of Congress...

The two Houses of Congress, however, at their last session, declared in their action on the application for the admission of Kansas, as a State, that its then existing population was sufficient for its immediate admission into the Union as a Slave State...

The President not satisfied with his official approval of the act at the time of its passage, takes occasion, in discussing the Kansas question in his annual Message, at the opening of the present session of Congress, to say, relative to the admission of Kansas as a State, that "surely it is not unreasonable to require the people of Kansas to wait, before making a third attempt, until the number of their inhabitants shall amount to ninety-three thousand four hundred and twenty."

Had the reasonableness of this requirement suggested itself to the President in his Message transmitting the Leocompton Constitution to Congress, much valuable time in the legislation of the country might have been saved, and a dangerous sectional agitation avoided.

The President, in the same annual Message, further declares that any attempt by the people of Kansas to form a State Constitution, before the number of their population reaches the required amount, would be "in express violation of the provisions of an act of Congress," and in the judgment of the President, therefore, could not lawfully be made.

This is the first instance in the history of the Government, where Congress has declared that the same population, which is recognized as sufficient for a Slave State, was not sufficient for a Free State, and the Chief Magistrate of the republic not only sanctions such a discrimination, but avows his readiness to insist on it in execution of the laws so far as they effect the people of Kansas.

With this law on the statute-book, and with these official declarations of the President it is proposed to admit Oregon into the Union with a population less than the number required by this law, and from the best sources of information within the reach of your Committee not exceeding, if equal, to that of the Territory of Kansas.

The undersigned minority of your Committee are unable to appreciate the fairness or justice of this kind of legislation towards the people of different Territories, and are unwilling to give their sanction in any way to a discrimination as to the amount of population required for a Free or Slave State, and much less as to the controlling political character of the proposed State.

As nearly as could be ascertained—no census having been taken in either since 1855—there was little or no difference as to the number of their population. Each had elected "a State Legislature and other officers," and so far they were alike prepared to enter the Union.

Without expressing any opinion as to the propriety of a restriction on new States as to population, if general in its character, or as to the necessity for any previous act of Congress authorizing the formation of a State Government, and without inquiring whether the Constitution submitted by the people of Oregon is republican in form and consistent in its provisions with the guarantees of the Constitution of the United States, while the restriction on the action of the people of Kansas remains on the statute-book, unless made of universal application to all the Territories, the undersigned feel that their approval of the application of Oregon under these circumstances, would be giving their sanction to an unjust discrimination between the people of different Territories, if not indirectly indorsing the odious distinction made in the law of the last session of Congress against free institutions and free States.

A FUGITIVE SLAVE IN THE WHITE HOUSE.—Our Washington correspondent tells a good saying by Thaddeus Stevens, the Republican representative-elect from Mr. Buchanan's District: "A gentleman was referring, in presence of Thad, Stevens, to the possibility of Mr. Buchanan's turning against the South for the purpose of retrieving his lost fortune in Pennsylvania, and asked Mr. Stevens what he thought would be the result. Mr. Stevens replied that there would be no trouble about that, as the South could reclaim him any time under the Fugitive Slave law! The inquirer seemed perfectly satisfied."

Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, January 27, 1859.

TERMS.—One Dollar per annum, in advance.—Four weeks previous to the expiration of a subscription, notice will be given by a printed wrapper, and if not renewed, the paper will in all cases be stopped.

CLIPPING.—The Reporter will be sent to Clubs at the following extremely low rates: 6 copies for \$1.00; 15 copies for \$2.00; 30 copies for \$3.50; 60 copies for \$6.50; 120 copies for \$12.00.

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DIFFICULTY BETWEEN SENATORS DOUGLAS AND FITCH.—The Herald's Washington correspondent says: "In the executive session of the Senate Friday, an angry and exciting discussion arose between Judge DOUGLAS and Senator FITCH, when words were used which it is thought must lead to a duel. The debate occurred on the question of confirming Mr. POTTER, of Ohio, as collector at Toledo. Mr. POTTER opposed POTTER'S nomination. As the man displaced was his friend, he said if the President desired an issue with him, (POTTER) he was ready for it; he denounced the appointment and called on every Senator who was his (POTTER'S) friend to vote against it. DOUGLAS responded, saying he would vote with the Senator from Ohio; he then branched off on to the Illinois appointments and said they were dishonest, corrupt and incompetent. Senator FITCH interrogated DOUGLAS and said it was untrue. DOUGLAS again reiterated what he had said. FITCH again said it was untrue. Cries of order were then made. DOUGLAS continued the debate. FITCH replied to DOUGLAS with great bitterness, and said that Senators knew how to prize anything coming from that quarter. Cries of order were again made. DOUGLAS then replied and was called to order. Motions were then made that DOUGLAS be allowed to go on in order. JEFFERSON DAVIS opposed it and said, turning to DOUGLAS, he had listened with indignation to the language used, and it was that of a highway-man and bravo. The debate was continued some time when a motion was made and the Senate adjourned. It is said the lie was given and most severe personal remarks made."

FOREIGN NEWS.—The screw-steamship City of Washington, from Liverpool, Jan. 5, arrived at New York Thursday morning. She brings news of unusual interest. The anticipation of a conflict between France and Austria upon the Italian question has suddenly passed from a possibility to a likelihood; inasmuch that the money markets of Paris and London have sunk beneath the panic, and the Press generally concedes the urgency of the symptoms. At the usual levee at the Tuilleries, Jan. 1, the Emperor remarked to Baron HUBNER, the Austrian Ambassador, that he regretted their relations were so bad; but his personal sentiments for the Emperor of Austria were the same as ever. The phrase taking wind at once caused serious consternation out of doors, which was increased by an official correction issued through the Constitutional, substituting for the word "bad" the words "not so good as they were," but otherwise accrediting the rumor. It was also stated that on the same occasion the Papal Nuncio had retired disgusted with his chilling reception. These facts, with the ardor of preparations in Sardinia, the movement of Austrian troops into Lombardy, and the intense excitement and insubordination of Austrian Italy give color to the intimations of war. The members of the British Cabinet had been summoned to London. Lord DERBY, it was said, desired to have Parliament meet earlier than the time previously fixed. Of general news, there is a little of moment. The investigation of the Irish sedition was continued without startling results. A staircase in the Polytechnic Institution, London, broke down on the 1st inst., injuring fifty persons, and killing one child. The Spanish ministry, with the approbation of the Cortes, has announced its final resolution not to part with Cuba. The adjustment of the Spanish difficulties at Tampico is also officially declared.—From Cracow we have rumors of a formidable insurrection at that place, in which several Russians were concerned. Its suppression is reported. The revolution in Servia was still successful, neither Turkey nor Austria having as yet intervened. Rumors of a revival of the Herat quarrel between Persia and England had come from the East. In India, the Oude campaign of Lord CLYDE had been attended with brilliant success, one of the principal rebel leaders having been utterly routed near Futteh-pore. The intelligence from Australia is without interest.

KANSAS ELECTION FRAUDS.—A Mr. Batt Jones has written a letter to the St. Louis Democrat, that his name as judge of the election, was affixed to the return of Oxford district, in October, 1857, without his knowledge and consent. Ex-Governor R. J. Walker, and Ex-Secretary Fred. P. Stanton, of Kansas, have availed themselves of his statement to publish an address to the people of the United States, as the revelations made by him tend to sustain their action at the time in rejecting the Oxford district returns.

In the Senate of Missouri, on Monday, the bill from the House was passed giving \$30,000 to the Governor for the suppression of Kansas difficulties.

FROM HARRISBURG.

[Correspondence of the Bradford Reporter.]

HARRISBURG, Jan. 21, 1859.

E. O. GOODRICH.—Mr. PRICE, of Lancaster, read a bill in place directing the taxes arising from Collateral Inheritances, now applied to the sinking fund of the State, to be hereafter applied to the school fund of the respective cities and counties wherein the taxes are collected.

How many schemes there are invented to continue the enormity of the present State debt. Could all the schemes prevail, which are now before the Legislature, the debt would be positively increased instead of diminished. As the distant and dim prospect of paying it off begins to brighten, and the means come within our reach, some one stands ready to snatch them from us and leave the old incubus bearing as heavily on us as before.

The Collateral Inheritance tax of those old towns and counties is large, while in the new counties it is comparatively small. No doubt Lancaster would be glad to retain that fund to relieve herself of school taxes, and let the State debt take care of itself. It is to be hoped however, that none of the revenues heretofore sacredly applied to a reduction of the State debt will be diverted into other channels. This Lancaster scheme is evidently calculated to operate injuriously upon the newer and poorer portions of the State.

A committee of five has been appointed by the House to inquire into alleged abuses of the franking privilege on the part of the clerks during the recess of the Legislature. The investigation is proper, whether the allegation be true or false, these things cannot be too closely watched.

Mr. DONIVAN, who committed the assault on Mr. CURRIE, member from Philadelphia, has been refused the floor of the House. Served him right, that code of "honor" belongs exclusively to the chivalry of the south.

I made a slight mistake when I informed you that the cost of supplying the Capitol with window fixings was about \$6,000, the House alone cost \$3,889 25; the whole cost was not less than \$7,500.

A bill to exempt parsonages from taxes has been reported by a committee with a negative recommendation. Prop. MILLER, of Crawford, read bill in place to authorize a commutation of the death penalty in certain cases. The exact provisions of the bill have not yet transpired.

A bill has been read in place making certified copies of the records of Insurance corporations evidence to the same extent as the official records of our Courts. What next? The tariff resolutions passed both Houses of the Legislature—unanimously in the Senate, but two voted against them in the House, viz. GORFF and LAIRD. A sharp debate sprung up in the House on its right to instruct. The right, and even propriety, was never doubted when the democrats desired and had the power to express their views on national questions, but it is the bull that has gored the ox this time.

The subject of the Legislative Record has been again before the House. The history of the matter is simply this: the Legislature of 1858 made a contract with R. J. HALDEMAN for the publication of a daily Legislative Record at \$7 per page. At the close of the session Mr. BUCKALEW got into the appropriation bill a very snaky clause continuing the contract until some future Legislature should revoke it. At the opening of the present session the House appointed a committee to act with a similar committee from the Senate, should one be appointed, to contract for the publication of such Record. The Senate refused to appoint such committee. In the meantime Messrs. BERGNER & Co. made a proposition to publish a Record, like the present one in all respects, for 20 per cent less than is now paid. The House was determined to show to the world that it repudiated that kind of favoritism which would pay off a partisan press at such enormous rates, when a gentleman equally responsible proposed to do the same work at a much less cost. Mr. WILLISTON, therefore, introduced a resolution declaring the contract of last winter at an end. This was stored off in various ways for several days. Mr. KINNEY, thinking very properly that an Act of the Legislature could not be repealed simply by resolution, read in place a bill repealing Mr. BUCKALEW'S sly section referred to, and upon his motion the rules were suspended, and the House proceeded to the consideration of the bill. Mr. FOSTER, of Pittsburg who seems to be acting with the democracy in this matter, talked to the hour of adjournment so a vote could not be had. On the next day the resolution being reached, an effort was again made to talk against time, but a vote was reached and the resolution passed by yeas, 57; nays, 28; FOSTER, rep. voting in the negative.—To-day, Mr. KINNEY'S bill was reached and passed, by 54 to 25, FOSTER again voting in the negative. Upon its passage a sharp debate sprung up between FOSTER and KINNEY, which is reported at some length in the papers. The responsibility is now on the shoulders of the Democratic Senate, and the people will soon see whether it will continue the publication of the Record at \$7 per page, when a reliable man offers surely to publish it at \$5.60.

Mr. KINNEY has presented petitions for a law for assessing and recovering damages on the North Branch Canal.

Yours, PETER KLAUS.

Ex-Governor Slade, of Vermont, died at Middlebury, on Sunday last.

One of Dupont's powder mills, at Wilmington, Del., exploded on Thursday last, killing two of the workmen.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.—A fatal accident of a peculiarly afflicting character, occurred in the family of JOHN BILES, residing on Shores' Hill, Wysox township, on Sunday evening last. The day being very cold, Mr. BILES had built a fire in the sleeping room of his children and two of them, a girl aged about 12 years, and a younger brother, went into the room. In a short time the father went to the room and discovered the girl lying upon the floor in front of the fire. He spoke to her, when her brother said "He was afraid he had hit her." He was still standing in the chair, which he had mounted in order to reach a gun hanging there. The horror-stricken father raised up the girl and found that the charge had taken effect upon the temple, nearly blowing off the top of the head and that she was already dead. The boy says that he took down the gun, which had been loaded with a charge of shot a few days previous, and snapped it with out thinking of his sister, and that it went off. This distressing occurrence should warn every one to place their fire-arms out of the possible reach of children—or rather that they should never be allowed in the house when loaded.

Public exercises will be held at the Hall of the Alpha Epsilon Society, on Friday evening next. A discussion will be held, and an address may be expected from Prof. O. S. DEAN. Exercises to commence at 7 o'clock, precisely.

The Trips Agitator appears in a new and beautiful dress. We are pleased to see this evidence of prosperity for the "Agitator" is one of the most lively and readable of our exchanges.

Our old friend, THEO. SMITH, has disposed of the Scranton Herald to F. A. MACARTNEY, who proposes enlarging and otherwise improving the paper. SMITH has made a capital party of the Republican, and in his retirement will wish him a more prosperous and pleasant fate, than tossing on the troubled sea of newspaperdom.

The North Branch Canal Company, have already commenced operations for rebuilding the aqueduct over Tunkhannock Creek. They intend to have it completed by the time navigation opens in the spring. The dilapidated condition of the old structure would not warrant their using it another season.

C. A. LYMAN, formerly of this County, now residing at Lock Haven, has been admitted to practice at the bar of Lycoming County.

The Town Elections took place throughout the County, on Friday last. We shall publish a list of the more important town officers elected, as soon as it can be compiled from the returns. The following was the result in this Borough, there being no contest for any of the offices and a very light vote: Judge of Elections.—B. F. POWELL. Inspectors.—G. P. CASE, J. H. NEVINS. Justice of the Peace.—N. S. BETTS. Town Council.—WM. EWELL, E. O. GOODRICH, HARRY MITCHELL. Constable.—ANDREW J. NOBLE. High Constable.—G. H. EATON. Overseers of the Poor.—WM. MIX, C. K. LADD. School Directors.—WM. C. BOGART, E. H. MASON. Assessor.—WM. C. BOGART. Auditor.—O. D. BARTLETT.

OPERATIONS OF THE BARCLAY RAIL ROAD & COAL CO., FOR 1858.—The following extracts from the Report of JAMES MAPS, General Superintendent, shows the operations of this Company for the past year:—"At the close of our last year's business the Junction and North Branch Canals, by which our coal is sent to market, was injured by freshets. A dam near the State line, had to be about entirely rebuilt, and other extensive repairs were required. The commencement of this work by the Canal Companies was delayed until late in the spring. Navigation from Towanda to Elmira was opened on the 24th day of July, and continued without serious interruption until its close on the 26th of November. The Canal has been in much better order the present season than at any time heretofore, and a gradual improvement in it from year to year is perceptible. In 1858 the largest boat load of Coal taken from Towanda to Elmira was 65 tons, the usual load being from 50 to 60 tons, in 1857 the largest load was 71 tons, the usual load being from 60 to 65 tons; while in 1858 the largest load was 82 tons, and the usual load in the latter part of the season took by good loads with two horses was from 70 to 75 tons. By next season I have little doubt but that 85 tons will frequently be taken. The improvement of the canals will be favorable to low freights. At Elmira a portion of our Canal has been re-shipped, the boats destined for distant places on the main lines of the New York Canals being then filled up and taking from 95 to 100 tons. The Canals of that State from Havana northward are now enlarged nearly to their extended size, having during the last summer contained 6 feet in depth of water. A reduction of Canal tolls from Towanda to Elmira from 37 to 28 cents was made by the Canal Companies on the opening of navigation. A draw back of thirteen cents per ton was also allowed on Coal cleared from Pittston and shipped to places north of Geneva to enable the Wyoming Canal Companies to compete with the Scranton Canal, but a similar allowance was denied to the Coal-shippers from Towanda, although a very considerable portion of it sold for steam purposes, came directly in competition with the Scranton Canal.—This discrimination against us was more unjust in the Junction Canal Company, as our Coal passes over the entire length of their Canal, and we pay them 6 cents more per ton for the same service than is paid on the Coal from Pittston. It is hoped that by next season a more equitable rule will be adopted, by which Barclay Coal will pay the same tolls per ton, as Anthracite.

The transfer of the Pennsylvania Canal from the Commonwealth to a company is likely to be favorable to that work, in as much as the necessary repairs will be done more promptly, and it is believed the Canal will be kept in better order than it would have been under the management of the State. There is good reason to suppose that our misfortunes arising from disasters to the Canal are now at an end, the work at the close of navigation and at present is in good order, and we may fairly anticipate a full season of navigation next summer. While a rail-road outlet for our Coal, communicating with those of the State of New York, would be valuable to us, yet there can be no question that a good canal is the cheapest and best mode for the transportation of Coal and other mineral productions.

The prospect of early navigation last spring was so discouraging, our Company did not commence mining Coal until the 20th of April. We were without means, embarrassed by our debts, and being warned by our misfortunes of previous years, we felt obliged to proceed cautiously, our intentions being to mine no more coal than we would be able to send to market, and this plan was faithfully carried out. The quantity mined up to the 15th of December inclusive was 16,921 tons. At the close of navigation, November 27th, we had about 400 tons of blacksmith Coal left at Barclay, and no lump coal, or run of mines whatever, we were therefore obliged to mine out 1200 tons more to get a supply of lump Coal for our winter retail sales at Towanda.

The amount of Coal shipped by this Company by the Canal during the season was 17,560 tons, a portion of it being taken from the old stock left from 1857. Of the whole amount shipped and sold this season 31 per cent was fine coal, 49 per cent was run of the mines, containing about one-half fine coal, and 20 per cent was lump coal from which the fine coal was taken by screening. We have therefore sold more fine than coarse coal this season counting what was contained in the run of the mines.

Of the sales for the season 44 per cent. has been used for blacksmithing and rolling-mills, 20 per cent for steam-boats, 18 per cent for stationary engines, 8 per cent for the salt works at Syracuse, and the remainder, 10 per cent for glass works, burning lime, domestic uses and other purposes.

As to the localities where we have found a market, it appears that 25 per cent. from sales have been at Towanda and Montezuma, 23 per cent. at Syracuse and its vicinity, 13 per cent. at Oswego, and its vicinity, 8 per cent. at Utica and its vicinity, and on the Black River and Chazy.

Manago Canal, 7 per cent. at Troy, Albany, and vicinity, 12 per cent. at Rochester, and its vicinity including the Genesee Valley Canal, and 12 per cent. at Buffalo and its vicinity. It should not however be inferred that the market for our Coal will hereafter be distributed among these places in the same proportion as in some instances our sale at particular places have been greater, owing to special attention and efforts being directed to them, or to other accidental circumstances. It is also to be observed that we have never yet been over the whole ground in search of customers. There are many important localities on the New York Canals, where Barclay Coal has never been seen or heard of. It is intended during the present winter to mine out a larger stock of coal, and we are making arrangements to extend our business as far as it can be done consistently with safety, good management, and a good profit. In addition to the natural increase in the quantity of Coal consumed, it is also commencing to be used for new purposes, and in new places, supplying the place of wood, steam is being introduced on the Erie Canal and bids fair to revolutionize the business. By next summer quite a number of boats will be run by steam. This will greatly increase the quantity of Coal used, and no company will be so much benefited by the change as ours, for no Coal is better adapted to that purpose, and no Coal is cheaper than ours."

The Proceedings of the Musical Convention will be published next week. It was impossible to prepare them in time for this week's paper.

AGRICULTURAL NOTICE.—A meeting of the Bradford County Agricultural Society will be held at the Court House in the Borough of Towanda, on Wednesday evening, February 9, 1859. A general attendance is requested.

The Festival at the rooms of the Susquehanna Collegiate Institute, will take place on Tuesday evening, February 8th, instead of Monday evening, 7th of February, as was advertised last week. We hope to see a grand gathering of the friends of the Institute upon that occasion. Let it be such a one, as will do credit to warm hearts and liberal ones.

The Hon. GEO. SCOTT will accept our thanks for a copy of the "Annual Report of the Board Canal Commissioners, with accompanying Documents, for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1858."

LUMBER ON THE WEST BRANCH.—We learn from the Williamsport papers that for five years past the prospects of getting a supply of logs to the mills upon the West Branch, have not been so unpromising as at present. Up to this time, nothing like the usual number have been put up in readiness for the spring freshets, and even with plenty of snow between this and spring the default can hardly now be made up. The shipments of manufactured lumber, next season, will probably fall far below any for a number of years past; for, in addition to the prospects of a very short crop of logs for next year's cutting, the quantity of dry lumber now in the hands of manufacturers is stated to be less than has been known in this month for the last six years. Serious doubts are entertained by lumbermen about being able to get in any logs, unless an unusual quantity of snow should yet fall. In consequence of these unflattering prospects, the price of lumber has already advanced two dollars, and holders show but little disposition to sell.

PERIODICALS.—The Ladies Home Magazine, edited by T. S. ARTHUR and VIRGINIA F. TOWNSEND, deserves, as it receives, liberal patronage. The points of excellence upon which the high reputation of this Monthly is established, are the high moral sentiment and pleasing style of its literature. The Home Magazine should be in every home in the land. Terms: \$2 per year, \$3 for 2 copies. T. S. ARTHUR & Co., publishers, 523 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

"The Great Republic," comes to us with its ample pages well filled. We are glad to observe in this new undertaking, a departure from the usual routine of periodicals. Instead of being filled with original or selected stories, in "the blood and thunder," or love and murder style, we have in "The Great Republic," history, biography, travels, tales, poetry and variety. The work promises to outstrip all others, in the race of popular favor.

"The Monthly Law Reporter," edited by JOHN LOWELL and SAMUEL M. QUINCY, is published at the well known house of CROSBY, NICHOLS & Co., Boston. The February number appears to us to be of value to lawyers, as it contains a large number of reports, discussions of legal subjects, &c.

"Giddy, for February," is indeed a "great number." Miss SIMMONS, No. 2 appears. These papers are really worthy the pen of their author of the "Widow Bedott." Mrs. Haven gives us her very best story in this number—"Two Sides to the Picture," "Homespun and Velvet," by Marion Harland, author of "Aloha" and "Hidden Path," also graces this number. The authoress writes for no other magazine. "Precocious children" we recommend every parent to read. There are other most admirable stories in the book. Indeed, we think the literature of this number cannot be equalled by any magazine published in the United States.

NORTH BRANCH CANAL COMPANY.—We are informed by one of the Stockholders present, that on the 10th inst., the North Branch Canal Company held the annual meeting at the office of the Company in Athens, Bradford County, Pa., at which the annual report to the Stockholders was made, and the following persons elected for the ensuing year: C. F. WELLS, Jr., President, GEO. M. HOLLENBACK, G. F. MASON, HENRICK B. WRIGHT, HENRY M. FULLER and JOHN LAPORE, Managers. GEO. M. HOLLENBACK was re-elected Treasurer, and D. MITCHELL, Jr., Secretary, by the Board.

From the annual report it appears that the Canal was opened for navigation north of Pittston, on the 15th of July last, but owing to several breaches requiring time to repair and causing a suspension of navigation, the season of effectual navigation was limited to about three months, and closed on the 1st of December last. The whole amount of tonnage received on the Canal now owned by the Company was 104,777 tons, of which 57,448 tons was coal shipped north and 47,329 tons south. The expenditures on the work for maintenance and improvement was for the year \$75,025, and the amount of tolls received was \$32,457. The balance of expenditures over receipts being made up from an assessment of 5 per cent. on the capital stock of \$1,750,000, all of which has been subscribed for and issued. The estimated expenditures for the year 1859 for interest, maintenance and improvement is \$128,643, and the estimated receipts from tolls \$72,000, and from overdue assessment on stock \$45,530, making a total of \$117,530, which will leave to be made up by a future assessment on stock \$11,093. The company estimate the coal tonnage north for 1859 will reach over 200,000 tons, and they have reduced the tolls on Anthracite from Pittston to New York State line, a distance of 94 miles to 32 cents per net ton, and 5 mills per ton mile on intermediate distances, which is one-sixth less than their charter allows.

They have also practically reduced the capital stock from \$1,750,000 to \$700,000 by an endorsement of the difference pro rata on the certificates, (being for proceeds of sale of the Lower North Branch line to the Wyoming Canal Company.

The Company have now a bonded debt of \$500,000 payable in 18 years with 6 per cent. interest, which leaves a surplus beyond the debt of \$110,000 to be applied to future improvement of the work.

Excitement in Tunkhannock.—Our Tunkhannock neighbors have been working themselves into a very uncomfortable state of excitement concerning the alleged abduction of a young girl, a highly wrought account of which appears in the Tunkhannock Democrat as follows:—"Our village has been the scene of considerable excitement for a few days past, in consequence of the sudden and mysterious disappearance, some two or three weeks since, of a young girl, aged about thirteen years, by the name of Catherine Langdon, residing in the family of NELSON LEA, proprietor of the American Hotel in this place, to whom she had been entrusted by her father, JOHN LANGDON, to rear up to womanhood. She has since, by extraordinary efforts, been found and restored to her father and friends. The reported particulars of her abduction, as given by herself near as we have been able to gather there, are as follows:—It seems that Catherine was attending school, and on Monday the 20th of December last she was enticed away in company with a young Irish girl by the name of Sarah Shaugherly to the house of Mr. R. B. Little, where she was to receive her education. Mary McGuire, was in waiting to receive her, Catherine was taken from thence, in company with these two girls, for a journey into the country. Mrs. Coak, she said, furnished her with a shawl, and she was taken from thence about a mile from the village, on the road leading from Tunkhannock to Laceyville, where she lingers in company with the two girls above mentioned, until a Mr. Collins, who was in the wagon and conveyed her to his home in the village would ever thought of looking, and there she was kept for nearly a week, under the instructions if she saw anybody approaching to secrete herself. From this place she was taken to Meshoppen village where the Catholic priest was holding "mass," who took charge of her and conveyed her from thence to a place called a Convent, in the township of Chocoma, Susquehanna county, Pa., distant, about thirty miles—where she remained until accidentally discovered by her father a few days since.

Mr. Langdon, who resides some distance from town, hearing of the strange disappearance of his daughter, immediately made diligent search and inquiry for her. He proceeded to this Mary McGuire, who had been suspected of complicity in the affair and extorted from her a confession of the whereabouts of his daughter, immediately started in pursuit of her. Arriving within about twenty miles of the institution above mentioned, he secured the services of two athletic men, and wended his way to the place pointed out to him by the said Mary McGuire, (the arriving at the institution, he discovered his daughter on the yard, either playing or carrying in wood, and the daughter immediately recognizing him, ran to him, saying, "there is my father." The father immediately took his child into the stable and started at a rapid pace towards home, before any one had time to interfere with his progress."

The Democrat claims that "this case of abduction is somewhat similar to the Mortara case, which has excited so much excitement in this and other countries; that we must confess we cannot see the striking resemblance. We strongly suspect there are two sides to this story and that we have only heard a very exaggerated one."

The Secret Doings of the Douglas Men.

The Pennsylvania is responsible for the following revelation of the secret movements of the leaders of the Anti-Leocompton Democracy. If it be true, it looks as if there were already traitors in the camp, who tell its secrets to the enemy. Whether true or not, it is decidedly funny: A FACT has just come to our knowledge, and we feel it to be our duty to the public to announce it. On Friday night last, a private meeting was called at the Saint Lawrence Hotel, in this city. The persons who convened the meeting, were the chiefs and leaders of the late reception given to the Hon. Mr. DOUGLAS. After the gentlemen who had been invited were assembled in a quiet and private way, the object in view was made known by Mr. FORNEY, who acted as the spokesman and leader. To them he made the bold proposal that instant and prompt action should be had to invite Mr. DOUGLAS to accept of an independent nomination for the next Presidential election, and to consent that his name should be put before the Union as a candidate, without regard to the election of the Charleston Convention. Mr. Astorley-General KNOX was also present and dissented from the proposal; or Mr. FORNEY, the ground taken by him was that it was inexpedient to act as Mr. FORNEY proposed, and that the wise and prudent course would be to admit the claims of Mr. DOUGLAS to the Charleston Convention and to make every effort to secure the nomination for him at the hands of that body; but should he be defeated there, that then he would willingly leave the party, and with Mr. DOUGLAS for his leader, try their fortunes with the people. Other persons who were present differed with both of those gentlemen, and particularly Mr. MCGINNIS and Mr. MCCORMICK, who were opposed to any action that would be contrary to the usage and discipline of the Democratic party.

THE TARIFF RESOLUTIONS.—The following are the tariff resolutions which have recently passed both branches of our State Legislature. WHEREAS, The experience of the past and present most fully demonstrate that it is a wise and beneficial policy of the General Government which dictates the imposition of duties on such products of foreign nations as come in such direct contact with those of our own country, as to injure and prostrate the trade on our own soil and among our own citizens.

And whereas, for want of such aid, the country is filled with foreign products, the result of cheap labor; the monetary affairs of the nation embarrassed by the exportation of specie, to pay an indebtedness abroad, the artisans and laborers in many departments of trade are compelled to abandon their accustomed pursuits—especially do our own coal and iron interests suffer; therefore,

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to labor for the passage (at the present session) of such an act as will not only tend to increase the revenue by the imposition of duties, but afford ample encouragement to all the interests of the country injured by the productions of the cheap labor of other nations, but more especially to urge an increase of duties on coal and iron, in which a portion of our own people are deeply interested.

Resolved, That the views of the President, expressed in his late annual Message, in reference to the advantage of definite or specific duties over ad valorem duties, as more uniform, less liable to frauds, and affording the most certain and uniform amount of revenue, meet our hearty approval.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward each of our Senators and members of Congress, a copy of the above preamble and resolutions, informing them of their adoption.

At South Franklin, Massachusetts, on Monday evening, Jonathan Wales shot Miss Susan Whiting with a pistol, killing her instantly. Wales fled, but was arrested yesterday morning. The cause of the case is supposed to be jealousy, as Wales formerly paid his addresses to the deceased. Both are young, and belong to respectable families.

The State Sentinel, the new Democratic paper recently established at Harrisburg says:—"Indications warrant the belief that Mr. Buchanan and his Leocompton policy will speedily be buried together, with notes to mourn for him save a few traitorous fellows who would sell their party, and with it their country for some petty dollar-a-day office."