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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1896.

THE WEEKLY GAZETTE, issued on Wednesdays and Saturdays, is the best and cheapest family newspaper in Pennsylvania.

WE PRINT on the inside pages of this morning's GAZETTE—Second page: Poetry, "The Night Before Christmas," Epigrams.

Gold sold in New York yesterday at 134 3/4 @ 134 1/2.

THE NATIONAL TREASURY will disburse next week over thirty millions in gold.

Prussia invites the Great Powers to a conference for the pacific adjustment of the questions between Turkey and Greece.

Gen. Sheridan will close the Indian war by the 4th of March, when he will resume the command of his old military district.

Secretary McCulloch's estimates, for next year's expenses, will be cut down at least twenty-five millions, by the House Committee on Appropriations.

ONE MORE State election is yet to be held this year. Florida will, on Tuesday, the 29th, choose a Representative in Congress.

AN INJUDICIOUS FRIEND of Mr. Pendleton, in Missouri, has just published a letter on the "greenback theory," which that eminent financier addressed to him in August last.

THE AFFAIRS of this Commonwealth were, for upwards of twenty years, administered by one and the same party that a public debt of forty one millions of dollars, without any prospect for its reduction, marked its retirement from power.

IRON-MAKING—THE NEW PROCESS. Our recent references to the new process of iron-manufacture, by which puddling is practically dispensed with, and which has been introduced in this city, have attracted a very general attention.

than was done formerly. To stir in some, was always done to make iron come quicker. To stir in somewhat more, transformed it to steel, which is the Bessemer process.

The discoverer is a German, of New York. He made his hit by experimenting to avoid the difficulties which render the Bessemer process unreliable and wasteful.

THE POST-OFFICE DEFICIT. Mr. Johnson's Postmaster General reported to Congress a deficit of \$8,000,000 in the financial accounts of his department for the last year.

For example, for the overland-mail service three bids were made, from \$380,000 to \$1,250,000. The lower bidder never showed himself, and Mr. RANDALL seems not to have been unhappy in finding himself at the mercy of the highest, WELLS, FARGO & Co., who soon prevailed on him to sign a contract giving them \$1,750,000.

Again, a route in Arizona was awarded to the brother of the Congressional delegate at \$90,000, and although ample evidence is at hand to show that not a letter or an ounce of mail-matter was ever carried over the route, the contractor has been paid for two years' service.

Again, all the foreign steam-lines are well paid by the simple and regular rate of seven cents, sea postage. Yet Mr. RANDALL is notoriously paying large extra sums to what appear to be regarded as favorite lines.

Remember that the instances cited are only those which, by some mismanagement of the parties, are suffered to leak out of the secrecy of the "ring." These may be taken, however, as fair specimens of a vast amount of corrupt favoritism and unlawful expenditure which is still covered up from the public eye.

Our Wholesome neighbors very justly congratulate themselves upon the fair prospect for the construction of the needed link, in the Hempfield line, which will complete their connection with Baltimore, via Connellyville, by a route forty miles shorter than the present route by Gratton, and avoiding the topographical difficulties which seem to have made the latter line a monument of engineering skill rather than a formidable and remunerative competitor for the trade of the West.

THE PROGRESS of railway enterprise within the municipal limits of Baltimore presents points which have interest for the people of Pittsburgh. The Northern Central Company have just effected the sequestration of eighteen acres of land for depot purposes, at their new location at the Charles street bridge, for \$5,000 per acre.

THE HAGERSTOWN MAIL, under the heading of "Battle of the Giants," says: "The fight predicted is between the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on the one side, and the concentrated power of the Pennsylvania Railroad System, Congress and the municipality of Washington, with innumerable auxiliary forces on the other side."

THE DEPT. OF PENNSYLVANIA. The Harbinger Telegraph says: "The actual debt of the fiscal year, was thirty-three millions and eight hundred and eighty-two thousand and eight hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirteen cents (\$33,882,843.33), a reduction of some ten millions of dollars under a Republican administration, and the payment of some five millions more for war expenses. Let the Republicans rule a few years longer and the State debt will be entirely wiped out."

On Railroads, Jay Cooke, millionaire banker, and a host of powers which to enumerate would be tedious. We mention merely "the giants," and it will have suggested itself to the reader that in such a fight as this Mr. Garrett is likely to have his hands full.

Allying to the surveys in progress in that part of the valley, under the direction of the Pennsylvania Central, the Mail says: "The bridging of the Potomac and introduction of a competing line with the present route through the Valley of Virginia, controlled by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, has for some time been a favorite project of the Pennsylvania Central. This is the great prospective highway between the Atlantic seaboard and the Gulf, for the benefit of which the rival grants have been shaping their course for many months, and with the bridging of the Potomac will commence the long threatened struggle."

CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LEGAL TENDERS. The original act of January, 1863, was introduced by Hon. E. E. SPALDING, the member of the House from the Buffalo district. He now prints a letter, addressed to Secretary McCulloch, commending the annual Treasury report, and the fidelity of that officer to "the first and most important duty of returning to the specie standard at the earliest possible moment."

Some time ago we reported the seizure of large quantities of silks made by the Col. of New York, and the probable value of which was estimated to be upward of \$100,000. These silks, committed through a series of years, turned out to be the most successful and long-continued ones brought to light in this country.

SUNDAY EVENING last, a woman, carrying a child about two years of age in her arms, entered a church in the western part of the city of Rochester, N. Y., and took a seat near the aisle. In about the middle of the sermon the woman, while holding the child in her arms, fell backward, and the innocent but wide awake baby fell to the floor and rolled into the aisle.

LITERARY. MADAME DE BEAUFREY, by Mrs. C. Jenkin New York, Leypoldt & Holt. This is another of that series of French novels, written in English by an English woman, which has attracted so much attention from the novel-reading public.

RAILWAY NEWS. The several Pacific railway companies are likely to engage in a very bitter contest, in the lobby of Congress, this winter, and with results probably beneficial to the interests of the people.

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ROASTED TO DEATH in an Iron Foundry—A Shocking and Mysterious Affair. (From the Baltimore American, Dec. 16.) A man named John Britt came to his death on Saturday night, at Wilmington, Delaware, under the most horrible circumstances, having been literally roasted alive.

It is for citizens to sit calmly by, without a word of protest, and see things another swept away by this yellow stream that beats against Congress, Legislature, and the Judiciary, and threatens to undermine them.

Or the political situation in Arkansas we have the annexed opinion from the Memphis Post, a remarkably well-informed and extensively trustworthy journal.

It is said that the Pennsylvania Central has placed one thousand cars at the disposition of one of the great Express or Transportation Companies for the purpose of controlling the traffic on the Mississippi and its connections over that road.

It is stated that arrangements have been completed with the Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central Road which gives the Erie Company connection with Chicago and other important points West.

It is rumored that the New York Central has leased the Edison and Albany Road, and is negotiating for the Cleveland and Cincinnati Road, so as to have an unbroken line to Cincinnati. The Erie Road is negotiating for the Indiana Central line.

THE RETURNS of the late Parliamentary election in Great Britain show a total vote of about 2,000,000, of which the Tories obtained 800,000, the Whigs or Liberal party 1,200,000. The popular vote of the United States at the Presidential election was about 6,000,000. The population of the United States is somewhat greater than that of Great Britain.

THE DAYTON (Ohio) Journal speaks for vast interests in the West, when it said the other day: "The fact is understood by all intelligent people, that the best way to build up manufactures in this country is to put a stiff duty on the foreign articles which compete with those made at home."

THE RESULTS of this year's harvest in Russia are published. In the provinces of Livonia, Esthonia, Courland, Lithuania, Kalouga, Smolensk, Novgorod, Olonetz, Pskov, the crops were so great that there is some reason to fear a renewal of the famine of last year.

A CONVENTION of the editors of Central Pennsylvania will be held on the 8th of January, next, at Bellefonte, for the purpose, mainly, of agreeing on a scale of prices for advertising and job work.

Price of Land and Living in California. California's Correspondence Boston Journal. I doubt if there is a State in the Union where land is held at such high prices as in California. Farming lands fifty or a hundred miles from San Francisco, cannot be had for less than one hundred dollars an acre.

ADAPTIVE MIMICRY IN PLANTS. The Courier des Hautes et Marées says: "An extremely curious Chinese plant called the Hsiao-tao-chom exists in the flower garden of the Emperor of Siam. The name of this plant means that during the summer it is a vegetable, but that in winter it becomes a worm. It is observed closely at the latter end of September nothing simulates better than a yellow worm about four inches in length. The apparent transformation takes place gradually, and one can see head, eyes, plant, etc., in course of formation."

COUGHS, COUGHS, COLDS, COLDS. When a person takes cold the lungs become charged with phlegm, which operating the circulation a natural effort is made for a relief. This effort is a cough. The only safe and prudent remedy to be adopted are those which assist nature in its work, by loosening the phlegm and exciting a freedom of expectoration until the evil is removed.

TABLE TALK WITH A VICTIM OF INDIGESTION. Reader, we will suppose you are always to dyspepsia. If you are so, so much the better for you. If you are not, perhaps you may profit by this paragraph. You have just finished your dinner, we will say, and feel as if you had swallowed lead instead of food.

THE GREATEST OF ALL COUGH MEDICINES. At this time of the year, when the streets and pavements are covered with snow and slush, it is no wonder that the nasal pores and ducts of the body become obstructed, and whole communities become affected with coughs and pulmonary troubles.

DR. KEYSER'S PECTORAL SYRUP, which at once frees the imprisoned matter, removes its obstruction, and allays the irritability of the nervous system in such a way as to do no injury to health, or interfere with one's usual avocations. What a blessing it must be to have so potent a remedy in the house as DR. KEYSER'S PECTORAL SYRUP, which, for over twenty years, has gained on the affections and restored the health of thousands of our people.

DR. KEYSER'S RESIDENT OFFICE OF LUNG EXAMINATIONS AND THE TREATMENT OF OBSTRUCTIVE CHRONIC DISEASES, 120 FIFTH STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA. Office hours from 9 A. M. UNTIL 6 P. M. December 23, 1896.