SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Eastern and Middle States.

A large number of business failures have taken place in New York city recently. Among the most prominent houses that have suspended are Greenleaf, Morris & Co., bankers, for about $250,000; F. O. Boyd & Co., whisky commission merchants, for a large amount; Jewell, Harrison & Co., dealers in provision and cotton; J. C. Kohlsaat's Sons, dry goods importers, for about $175,000, and Wilson & Greig, dry goods dealers whose liabilities aggregate in the neighborhood of $140,000.

At a meeting of the trustees of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge Company, held in Brooklyn, a resolution was adopted calling upon the city of Brooklyn for a requisition of $1,000,000, and upon New York city for $500,000, for the purpose of finishing the bridge. This additional amount will make just $10,000,000 that will have been raised to build the structure.

Recent spring elections have been held in various cities and towns of New York. The returns show a varying success for the Democratic and Republican parties, while the Greenback and Labor Reform candidates for mayor have been elected in several large places. In Rochester and Newburg the Republicans elected their candidates for mayor; in Troy and Kingston, the Democrats theirs. In Auburn the Democrats and Nationalists united and elected Martin L. Walley, mayor. Granville D. Parsons, Greenback and Labor Reform candidate for mayor of Elmira, was elected over the Democratic and Republican nominees by 424 majority. In Utica James Benton, the Workingmen's candidate, was elected mayor, defeating both Republican and Democratic candidates. Rome elected a Democratic recorder and entire city ticket.

The Rhode Island Prohibitionists assembled in convention at Providence and nominated the present State officers for re-election.

A bill for the protection of savings bank depositors has been passed by the New York State Senate.

The New Hampshire Greenback party held a convention at Portsmouth and nominated Samuel Flint, of Lyme, for governor.

A fire in Spartansburg, Pa., destroyed nearly every business house in the town. Twenty families were made homeless, and the damage done reaches $100,000.

The ship Bertha, of Portland, was sighted by the steamship Bolivia, in mid-ocean, with the American ensign, union down. The mate of the Bertha stated that on the previous day Captain Hill and three seamen had been washed overboard. A navigator and two seamen from the Bolivia were sent aboard the ship.

Western and Southern States.

The Miami Saving Bank of Cincinnati, Ohio, has failed. Its liabilities are $170,000; assets, $152,000.

A terrific tornado, 400 yards in width, swept through Casey county, Ky., killing Vincent Wesley, his wife, two grown daughters, a nephew named Sloane and William Taylor, who was stopping at his house near Rich Hill. In the vicinity of Mount Olive Mrs. Morgan was killed and dwellings were completely swept away, fences were blown down, trees uprooted, and nearly all the cattle and poultry in the path of the whirlwind were killed.

The recent destructive floods in California have done an immense amount of damage. The country for 190 miles on the Sacramento river looked like a huge island sea. Dr. Glenn, a farmer of Colusa county, lost 20,000 sheep and 6,000 acres of wheat. The loss between Sacramento and Monroeville on levees, buildings, cattle and crops will reach $800,000.

The carnival season in New Orleans opened with the arrival of King Carnival and the surrender of the city's keys by the mayor; then the city was given over to the King of Misrule. The streets were filled with people in holiday attire, and many business houses and private dwellings were gaily decorated with flags and bunting. Over 20,000 persons witnessed the procession.

A fire swept through the celebrated watering place of Hot Springs, Ark., and destroyed about 250 buildings, including three of the principal hotels, a daily newspaper office, telegraph and post-offices, two banks, bath houses, and business blocks. The loss will reach $200,000.

A Western hard money league has been formed, with headquarters at Chicago. The president is George W. Allen, of Milwaukee.

The fifth annual convention of the National Butter, Cheese and Egg Association met in Chicago, and was called to order by President Henry Shriver, of Baltimore. About fifty members of the Boston Produce Exchange arrived in the morning. Many hundred delegates from all parts of the country were in attendance.

The trestle platform used in building a new iron bridge across the Potomac river near Williamsport, Md., gave way while thirteen men were at work upon it, throwing them into the river. Three of the men were fatally injured and three others seriously hurt.

The steamer City of Chester caught fire at Memphis, Tenn., and many of those on board were compelled to jump into the river for their lives. The most of them were rescued by small boats, but two men lost their lives. The steamer was totally destroyed.

Paul St. Pierre, his wife, and two children, lost their lives while in the cabin of a propeller, which was run down and sunk by a steamboat at New Orleans.

At Fort Wayne, Ind., two sons of Matthew Lynch, aged twelve and fourteen, were killed by the explosion of a railroad torpedo with which they were playing, and a third son, aged two, was fatally injured.

From Washington.

Albert B. Porter, of Indiana, has been nominated to fill the vacancy in the office of first comptroller of the treasury, occasioned by the death of Mr. Taylor.

The balance of trade in favor of the United States for the last nine months is $135,000,000.

The House committee on banking and currency voted to report favorably Mr. Phillips' bill creating a postal savings bank.

Committees of both houses of Congress will favor Captain Howgate's plans for a scientific and exploring expedition to the North Pole, and a bill appropriating the necessary expenses for the scheme has been put upon the House calendar. According to these plans the expedition will proceed as far north as possible, erect houses for themselves and form a colony. Then they will await an opportunity to push still further North and erect new houses. In this way it is believed the great mysteries of the Arctic regions will ultimately be cleared up.

During a debate in the House on the timber seizures, made by order of the secretary of the interior, it was stated that a mill at Fort Saint Francis, owned by British subjects, has a contract for furnishing all the timber for various English enterprises, and is busily at work, while the timber which is being sawn is all taken from the public lands of the United States.

The House committee on education and labor has agreed to report favorably a joint resolution restoring the eight-hour law, and providing that the same be recognized as a day's labor throughout the entire government service.

The Senate committee on commerce has agreed to report in favor of James Gordon Bennett's request that the Pandora be allowed to sail under the American flag and that naval officers be detailed for service on the vessel in the proposed Arctic exploration.

Foreign News.

The captain-general of Cuba has issued a proclamation looking to the reconstruction of affairs in the island. He states in the proclamation that the time has come to introduce such reforms as, without insurrection, Cuba would have enjoyed long ago; that dating from the next legislative term Cuba shall be represented in the Cortes at Madrid, on equal terms with Porto Rico, according to the population of the island and that the laws shall be equally applied.

The sultan has sent the following telegram to the czar, dated Constantinople: "On the occasion of the anniversary of your majesty's accession to the throne, I offer my congratulations and the desire of renewing our friendly relations." The emperor in reply telegraphed as follows, from St. Petersburg: "I thank your majesty for your congratulations which I received simultaneously with the news of the signature of peace. I perceive in this coincidence a presage of good and lasting relation between us."

Cardinal Franchi has been appointed secretary of state by Pope Leo XIII.

The treaty, signed at San Stefano bears the title: "Preliminaries of Peace" and contains twenty-nine articles. The opening articles relate to Montenegro, Servia and Bulgaria. The indemnity is fixed at 1,410,000,000 roubles ($1,119,540,000), but 1,100,000,000 roubles are covered by territorial cessions. Nothing is fixed concerning the terms and period of payment of the 310,000,000 roubles ($246,140,000). No guarantee is stipulated, nor is there mention of the Egyptian or Bulgarian tributes or of the Turkish fleet. The treaty simply states that Russia and Turkey shall agree subsequently about the payment.

Advices from Bonne Bay, Newfoundland, state that great distress prevails there, as the result of the scarcity of fish last season, and that half the people of the place are living altogether on herring.

The New Silver Dollar.

In accordance with the provisions of the silver bill recently passed by Congress, a new silver dollar is in process of coinage. The above cuts are a faithful representation of the new coin. Two designs were submitted to the committee having the matter of selection in charge, and they chose the above, known as the "Morgan dollar" because it is the work of Mr. George E. Morgan, an English engraver, who has been in the employ of the United States for about two years. The new dollar is lighter in weight than the trade dollar, by two per cent., but there is no apparent difference in the two coins in either size or weight. The coinage of the new dollar will begin at once at the various mints, but some time must elapse before it can get into general circulation. The size of the new coin is accurately given by our cuts.

Heads as Trophies.

Of parts cut from the bodies of the slain, heads are the commonest; probably as being the most unmistakable proofs of victory. We need not go far afield for illustrations both of the practice and its motives. The most familiar of books contains them. In Judges vii. 25, we read: "And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the wine-press of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan." The decapitation of Goliath by David, followed by carrying of his head to Jerusalem, further illustrates the custom. And, if by so superior a race, heads were taken home as trophies, we shall not wonder at finding the custom of so taking them among inferior races all over the globe. By the Chichimecs in North America "the heads of the slain were placed on poles and paraded through their villages in token of victory, the inhabitants meanwhile dancing round them." In South America, by the Abipones, heads are brought back from battle "tied to their saddles;" and the Mundrucus "ornament their rude and miserable cabanas with these horrible trophies." Of Malayo-Polynesians having a like habit, may be named the New Zealanders; they dry and treasure up the heads of their slain foes. In Madagascar, during Queen Ranavalona's reign, heads raised on poles were placed along the coast. Skulls of enemies are preserved as trophies by the natives on the Congo, and by other African people. "The skull and thigh-bones of the last monarch of Dinkira are still trophies of the court of Ashantee." Among the Hill-tribes of India, the Kukis may be instanced as having this practice. Morier tells us that in Persia, under the stimulus of money payments, "prisoners" (of war) "have been put to death in cold blood, in order that the heads, which are immediately dispatched to the king and deposited in heaps at the palace-gate, might make a more considerable show." And that among other Asiatic races head-taking persists spite of semi-civilization, we are reminded by the recent doings of the Turks, who have in some cases exhumed the bodies of slain foes and decapitated them.—*Herbert Spencer, in Popular Science Monthly.*

"Badix," in one of his recent New York letters, makes a good point apropos of life insurance investigations and troubles generally, by calling attention to the fallacy of judging of the reliability of companies according to their bulk. Many such institutions seek to dazzle the public eye by printing their large gross assets in the heaviest type, and by laying great stress upon the nominal millions under their control to win confidence and prevent any close analysis of the whole statement. He points out the plain, but often forgotten fact, that even conceding the equally good quality of the assets of two companies, it is not necessarily the one with the most millions which is safest for the policy holder, but the one whose net surplus bears the largest ratio to its whole property. Judged by this sound and searching principle, "Badix" finds the Ætna Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, to be one of the strongest, if not the very strongest, institution of the kind in the country. With a little over twenty-four millions of assets, it has about four and a quarter millions of clear surplus. The special commission appointed by the Legislature of Connecticut a year ago, to investigate all the life insurance companies of that State, say of the Ætna that it is "not only solvent, but financially sound, and under the management of officers and directors of large experience, sound judgment, and unblemished character, and entitled to the entire confidence of policy holders and the public." Taking the above facts and this official indorsement together, it is evident that this writer's estimate of the Ætna is one that can be everywhere safely indorsed.

The death of Cardinal Brossais-Saint Marc and the elevation of Cardinal Pecci to the pontifical throne reduce the numbers of the Sacred College to sixty-two. According to the Roman proverb, cardinals always die in threes, and during the last two years, at least, the truth of the saying has been attested in a remarkable manner.

Mothers! Mothers!! Mothers!!! Don't fail to procure Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for all diseases incident to the period of teething in children. It relieves the child from pain, cures wind colic, regulates the bowels, and, by giving relief and health to the child, gives rest to the mother. It is an old and well-tried remedy.

Renovation, not Prostration.

Did any enfeebled human being ever become strong under the operation of powerful cathartics or salivants? It is sometimes necessary to regulate the bowels, but that cannot be done by active purgation, which exhausts the vital forces and serves no good purpose whatever. The only true way to promote health and vigor, which are essential to regularity of the organic functions, is to invigorate, discipline and purify the system at the same time. The extraordinary efficacy of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in cases of debility or irregularity of the organs of digestion, assimilation, secretion and discharge, is universally admitted. Appetite, good digestion, a regular habit of body, active circulation of the blood, and purity of all the animal fluids are induced by this superb tonic and corrective. It has no equals, moreover, as a preventive of chills and fever, and other types of malarial disease. To immigrants and travelers it is particularly serviceable as a medicinal safeguard.

A Campaign Slander.

When Dr. R. V. Pierce was a candidate for State senator, his political opponents published a pretended analysis of his popular medicines, hoping thereby to prejudice the people against him. His election by an overwhelming majority severely rebuked his traducers, who sought to impeach his business integrity. No notice would have been taken of these campaign lies were it not that some of his enemies (and every successful business man has his full quota of envious rivals) are republishing these bogus analyses. Numerous and most absurd formulas have been published, purporting to come from high authority; and it is a significant fact that no two have been at all alike—conclusively proving the dishonesty of their authors.

False Economy.

Is it true economy to use cheap, adulterated baking powder, which is highly injurious to health, merely because it is cheap? Common sense and experience say no! Dooley's Yeast Powder, which has been known for twenty years as an absolutely pure, wholesome, and in every respect, reliable article, is within the reach of all those who practice true economy in this respect.

There are probably a hundred or more persons in this and neighboring towns, who daily suffer from the distressing effects of kidney troubles, who do not know that Johnson's Anodyne Liniment is almost a certain cure. In severe cases, great relief may be obtained, if not a perfect cure.

We notice that agricultural newspapers all over the country are now exposing the worthlessness of the *large* packages of horse and cattle powders. We put the ball in motion and claim the credit of it. Sheridan's Powders are absolutely pure and are the only kind worth having.

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The Celebrated
"MATCHLESS"
Wood Tag Plug
TOBACCO.
THE PIONEER TOBACCO COMPANY,
New York, Boston, and Chicago.

I Never Felt Better.

Such is the verdict after taking a dose of Quirk's Irish Tea. Sold in packages at 25 cts.

The Greatest Discovery of the Age is Dr. Tobias' celebrated Venetian Liniment! 30 years before the public, and warranted to cure Diarrhea, Dysentery, Colic, and Spasms, taken internally; and Croup, Chronic Rheumatism, Sore Throats, Cuts, Bruises, Old Sores, and Pains in the Limbs, Back, and Chest, externally. It has never failed. No family will ever be without it after once giving it a fair trial. Price, 40 cents. DR. TOBIAS' VENETIAN HORSE LINIMENT, in Pint Bottles, at One Dollar, is warranted superior to any other, or NO PAY, for the cure of Colic, Cuts, Bruises, Old Sores, etc. Sold by all Druggists. Depot—10 Park Place, New York.

The Markets.

NEW YORK.

Beef Cattle—Native		@	09½
Texas and Cherokee	68½	@	07¾
Milch Cows	40 00	@	70 00
Hogs—Live	04½	@	04¾
Dressed	04¾	@	05¾
Sheep	05½	@	01¾
Lambs	10½	@	11½
Cotton—Middling	10 1/16	@	10 ⅛
Flour—Western—Good to Choice	5 50	@	7 25
State—Good to Choice	6 45	@	8 40
Buckwheat, per cwt	1 40	@	2 0
Wheat—Red Western	1 25	@	1 25½
No. 2 Milwaukee	1 23½	@	1 26
Rye—State	75	@	76
Barley—State	63	@	65
Barley Malt	55	@	57
Buckwheat	80	@	85
Oats—Mixed Western	34	@	31
Corn—Mixed Western	50	@	56½
Hay, per cwt	40	@	45
Straw, per cwt	45	@	45
Hops.....76's—02 @04 ....77's	12	@	14
Pork—Mess	10 25	@	11 5
Lard—City Steam	07½	@	07¾
Fish—Mackerel, No. 1, new	16 00	@	21 00
" No. 2, new	9 50	@	12 00
Dry Cod, per cwt	5 00	@	5 ½
Herring, Scaled, per box	10	@	18
Petroleum—Crude.....09½@09¾ Refined			11½
Wool—California Fleece	20	@	26
Texas "	30	@	33
Australian "	44	@	49
State XX	43	@	44
Butter—State	16	@	18
Western—Choice	17	@	21
Western—Good to Prime	36	@	42
Western—Firkins	17	@	25
Cheese—State Factory	10	@	14
State Skimmed	07	@	09
Western	09½	@	13
Eggs—State and Pennsylvania	15	@	16

BUFFALO.

Flour	5 75	@	8 00
Wheat—No. 1 Milwaukee	1 31	@	1 34
Corn—Mixed	55	@	58
Oats	30	@	33½
Rye	75	@	77
Barley	75	@	74
Barley Malt	80	@	82

PHILADELPHIA.

Beef Cattle—Extra	08½	@	08¾
Sheep	05	@	05½
Hogs—Dressed	06½	@	06¾
Flour—Pennsylvania Extra	7 25	@	8 25
Wheat—Red Western	1 34	@	1 35½
Rye	65	@	67
Corn—Yellow	52	@	54
Mixed	51	@	52½
Oats—Mixed	32	@	34
Petroleum—Crude.....09½@09¾ Refined			11½
Wool—Colorado	32	@	34
Texas	22	@	32
California	31	@	49

BOSTON.

Beef Cattle	08	@	08½
Sheep	06½	@	07½
Hogs	06½	@	05¾
Flour—Wisconsin and Minnesota	7 75	@	8 25
Corn—Mixed	53	@	57½
Oats—"	34	@	36
Wool—Ohio and Pennsylvania XX	48	@	50
California Fall	45	@	53

BRIGHTON, MASS.

Beef Cattle	06½	@	07½
Sheep	08	@	09½
Lambs	07	@	10
Hogs	07½	@	08

WATERTOWN, MASS.

Beef Cattle—Poor to Choice	6 50	@	8 50
Sheep	7 00	@	7 75
Lambs	7 00	@	9 00

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KANSAS FARMS AND FREE HOMES.

The Great Limestone Belt of Kansas.

The Attractive Region of the West.

By Major H. Inman.

The "Great Central Plains" are a geographical feature of the State of Kansas. Covered with a remarkably nutritious vegetation, for centuries they were an immense pasturage for countless herds of buffalo, antelope and other ruminating animals, whose habitat was the far-stretching green prairies that to-day form one of the most beautiful agricultural portions of the Mississippi Valley. Less than ten years ago this region was believed, by the mass of the people in the East, to be an unprofitable desert, but it is now the acknowledged garden of the Continent. This truly magnificent country can claim the most luxuriant soil of all the "Great West," and a climate that approaches perfection, at least. Dr. B. E. Fryer, one of the most eminent surgeons in the Army, and who was stationed for years at Fort Harker, four miles from the Town of Ellsworth, declared this to be the "most perfect climate in the world." The whole country is traversed by a series of constant streams, sweet and wholesome springs and spring-fed pools. Delicious water is also always obtained in wells, by digging, at easily-accessible depths. It is already conceded that the United States is rapidly becoming the granary of the world, particularly in the production of wheat. Kansas, an Empire in itself, is taking the lead in the culture of this cereal, and in a short time will be acknowledged queen of all the States in the production of this great staple. The State, especially her peculiarly-wonderful fertile central area, comprised in what is now known as the "limestone belt," under the test of only a few years, has proved to the world the immense average its soil is capable of. Each year increases the limit of the wheat-belt, as the frontier is pushed toward the mountains, within which are found the greatest possibilities, agriculturally.

It is a remarkable fact that nearly all the lands of the Kansas Pacific Railway are included in the limestone region under consideration, and that south of this limit, in that direction, it ceases altogether, and the country presents another geological formation, the soil of which is very sandy, and which, though at present, *from fullness of its very primitiveness* is capable of producing good crops in seasons of abundant rainfall, lacks the inherent qualities of self-fertilization, *and must rapidly deteriorate.* In this particular the Smoky Hill Valley is immensely superior to the arenaceous lands of the region south, which is drained by the Arkansas and tributary streams. It is well known by every farmer that lime, in some of its combinations, constitutes the essential ingredient in all the more valuable grains and grasses. Its presence in the soil is consequently to be considered as a condition of fertility. It also acts as a constitutional ameliorant, of much power, and, when mixed with or underlying tough or viscid clay, it renders them friable and consequently more susceptible to the action of atmospheric forces. Soil in which there is a due admixture of calcareous matter, is not so liable to be injured or rendered plastic by an excess of moisture while under crop. The quality of the wheat raised in this great "limestone belt" is conceded, in all markets, to be the finest grade known. It produces the familiar brands of so-called Southern flour, for which St. Louis is justly celebrated. This is easily accounted for, from the fact that the soil in which the wheat is grown possesses a due admixture of calcareous matter, which has a tendency to make the hull of the grain much thinner, and the farina itself in much greater quantity, and in richer quality, than in grain grown on the lands which exhibit a deficiency of this earth. All our millers will testify to the peculiar flour-making properties of our wheat, in this essential, surpassing that raised in other sections, and it is attributed entirely to the fact—which the analysis of the soil confirms—that this so-called "limestone belt" possesses all the requisites of the best wheat land in the world. Sand, it is well known, is injurious when it enters too largely into the composition of cultivated soils; in other words, it is useless beyond a certain proportion. That the "limestone belt," or "wonderful wheat region of Central Kansas," as it is sometimes called, has the amount of silex or silica—the basis of sand—fixed in the proper proportion, is evident, from the fact that it requires peculiar conditions to "lodge" the grain in the field, even after the most terrific showers. Considering the question of the relative fertility, particularly in its connection with wheat culture, present richness of soil and endurance must enter as essential elements of success, and the capacity of the self-fertilization of the land, an ingredient not to be overlooked. The latter quality a *limestone region alone* can possess, as only a limited knowledge of agricultural chemistry clearly demonstrates. Viewing the subject of wheat culture, then, in all its aspects, so far as Kansas is concerned, an inspection of the Smoky Hill Valley, and the arenaceous region south, coupled with a fair idea of what the culture of wheat requires, the conclusion can lead only in one direction—to the infinitely superior advantage of the "limestone belt."

Prospectively, from purely physical causes, this great inland region must reach the position of one of the richest agricultural portions of the United States. Only a very few years ago—not a decade—husbandry here was purely tentative. From absolutely no dew, eight years ago, this region is as favored in that particular as any that can be named. From lying outside of the "rain belt," so termed, this region has had to be "taken in." The quantity of water in the streams has augmented springs have burst forth where none existed before—in short, just the converse of that meteorological phenomenon has been evolved here, under the march of civilization, which takes in a heavily-timbered country under the same social conditions.

The following statistics of the rainfall clearly prove the accuracy of the foregoing statement:

The Fall of Rain and Melted Snow, in inches, at Forts Hays, Larned and Dodge, for the last five years, as shown by the Daily Meteorological Records kept by the United States Government at the Posts named:

YEAR.	CENTRAL KANSAS.	SOUTHERN KANSAS.	
	Fort Hays.	Fort Larned.	Fort Dodge.
1873	21.52	19.23	19 00
1874	37.06	27.73	23.05
1875	32.08	17.80	16.36
1876	30.90	18.49	21.55
1877	35.40	31.89	31.48
Total	162.96	115.14	111.44
Average per annum.	32 59	23.03	22.29

These are some of the facts in relation to the agricultural possibilities of this region, and these, coupled with the story of the past harvest, are sufficiently confirmatory of the inducements this portion of the Great Plains offers.

Under the liberal policy of the government, and the *Kansas Pacific Railway Company*, immigrants are invited to this really superb region, with the assurance that its beauty and inducements cannot be exaggerated by any pen-picture.

For further information about Kansas, and especially the region described, address

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Invalid Pensions Increased.

BOUNTY.—Volunteers re-enlisting between Jan'y 1, 1861, and April 1, 1864, with 9 months' prior service, can get unpaid balance of $400. PENSION for wounds and disease (on slight disability), to soldiers, sailors, widows and children. War 1812, Pensions to survivors and widows. Change in law as to period of service and date of marriage. BOUNTY to soldiers discharged for wounds or injury, and $100 to vols. enlisted before July 22, 1861, for *three years*, regardless of term of service, if not paid. ADDITIONAL BOUNTY to 3 and 2 years' vols. and widows, if only $100 has been paid. New Orleans PRIZE MONEY. ERNEST P. BROOK, Late Chief Clerk, U. S. Sanitary Commission Agency Attorney at Law, No. 111 Nassau Street, New York.

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Blame no one but yourself, for we ask no money, till tested, for our Five Ton Wagon Scale. Freight prepaid, Price $50. For free Lithograph and Price List, address JONES OF BINGHAMTON, Binghamton, N. Y.

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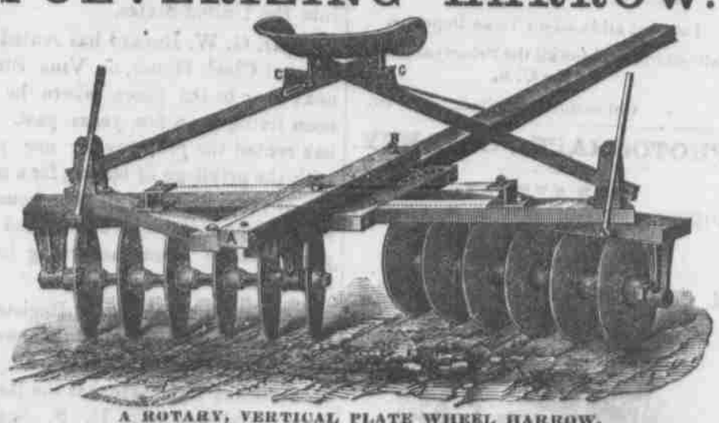

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