

THE RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL.

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W. S. ROW, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CLEARFIELD, PA., FEB. 2, 1859.

AMERICAN LUMBER TRADE.

The Lumber Trade is, perhaps, one of the most important branches of business in the United States, and its advancement and prosperity should be a matter of as much interest to the Government as to those who are directly engaged in it as producers and manufacturers.

The city of Chicago is at this time the great lumber mart of our continent, and the quantity which enters that port is a good indication of the condition of the lumber trade of our country.

The extent of the Chicago business may possibly be better comprehended, when we place that of our own section of country in juxtaposition with it. For a few years prior to 1856 the business on the West Branch of the Susquehanna had reached its greatest extent—the quantity being estimated at about 100,000,000 feet of sawed lumber, 12,000,000 feet of square timber and 10,000,000 shingles annually.

Taking the trade of Chicago, the statistics of which are doubtless accurate, as a guide, though the people of this region have abundant reason to satisfy them of the fact, it will at once be observed that the lumbering business of our country has been in a very depressed condition during 1858; but hopes are entertained of the present year as being one of much activity in this great branch of American industry.

GOVERNMENT FRAUDS.—When Mr. Buchanan predicted the downfall of our government, in his notorious letter to this city, says the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, he had before his mind, no doubt, such transactions as the following, which have occurred under his own administration, and probably with his own approval.

The public printing for the next three years was awarded to A. B. Hamilton on the same day, in convention, at the following highly remunerating rates—Press work, 9 cents and a fraction per token—composition, the same sum per 1000 ems!

The Canal Commissioners have laid a copy of their journal from the 28th of December up to the day they were capitulated. The claim of A. M. & R. White, it appears was opened by Scott and Frazer, against the protest of Strickland, and the certificate was also granted under his protest, entering upon the journal his belief that the claim, which was for wood furnished the Commonwealth in 1856, had already been paid!

The steamship *Arabia*, brought advices from Europe to the 16th inst. Rumors of war continued to be rife on the Continent, and the funds had suffered great fluctuations, but were better when the *Arabia* sailed. The total depreciation is estimated at sixty million pounds sterling.

Under the head of "Post office Affairs," we see that Josiah W. Thompson has been appointed postmaster at Brockbridge, Clearfield county, in the place of A. H. Reed, resigned.

AGRICULTURE IN CLEARFIELD.

During our last Court week, a successful effort was made to revive the "Clearfield County Agricultural Society," which was organized a number of years ago. Considerable interest was manifested in regard to the movement, and arrangements were made for holding meetings in other parts of the county, one being appointed at Curwensville for Friday evening, January 28th.

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LETTER FROM HARRISBURG. Special correspondence of the Raftsmans Journal. JANUARY 29, 1859.

FRIEND ROW.—The week's business opened on Monday by doing comparatively nothing, but there was a slight improvement on Tuesday, and a commendable "pitch in" manifested by some of the members.

The House resolution, passed last week, rescinding the contract with R. J. Haldeman was called up on Tuesday, by Mr. Harris, of Butler, but it fell at the first fire—11 Yeas 15 Nays.

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CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

JAN. 24.—The memorial from the Indiana Legislature, was presented to the Senate, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Mr. Seward gave notice of a motion to admit Messrs. Lane and McCarty, the claimants of the seats now occupied by Messrs. Bright and Fitch, to the privilege of the floor while their case is pending.

JAN. 25.—The Senate did nothing noteworthy. Mr. Gwin gave notice that he should move a reconsideration of the vote on the Pacific Railroad bill. The House reconsidered its vote on the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill.

JAN. 26.—The Senate refused to admit Messrs. Lane and McCarty, the claimants of the Indiana seats, to the privilege of the floor. All the remaining amendments to the Pacific Railroad bill were lost, and the final vote will be taken to-day.

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RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY FOR A. D. 1858.

John McPherson, Esq., Treasurer of Clearfield County, in account with the different Townships for School Fund for 1858 and 1857.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures, listing various items like 'Amount received from Collectors for 1858 and previous years' and 'Balance due Treasurer at last settlement'.

INDIANA COUNTY.—On Sunday the 23d, Mrs. Hauxhurst, of White township, received a fall upon the ice, by which she had one of her legs badly fractured near the ankle.

HENTINGSDOWN COUNTY.—On the 17th ult., an inquest was held over the remains of the man found on Terrace Mountain, some time since, and who was noticed at the time, and after a careful investigation, the jury returned a verdict of death from violence, by some person or persons unknown to them.

FAYETTE COUNTY.—On Monday night, Mr. Griffith Wells, of Fayette City, went to the Belvedere ferry, and attempted to cross in a skiff, with only a board for an oar.

WILSON COUNTY.—Samuel Anthony, of Hillsborough, was severely injured week before last, while working in a coal bank in West Bethlehem township, by the falling of a mass of slate.

ARMSTRONG COUNTY.—Kittanning appears to be in a flourishing condition. The *Free Press* is informed that over \$30,000 worth of buildings, to be put up in the spring, have been contracted for.

ELK COUNTY.—The triennial assessment of Elk county, published by the Commissioners, exhibits the following valuation in that county, viz: Real Estate, \$995,195; Personal property, \$32,461; Trades, professions and occupations, \$29,603; Money at Interest, \$600; Carriages, \$665; and thirty-four watches.

MERCER COUNTY.—A son of Geo. M. Curry, of Clarksville, was drowned on the 20th inst. He was skating on the ice and broke through. A little girl, who was with him, also slipped and fell in, but she was rescued in time to save her life.

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