

SAN MARCOS FREE PRESS.

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SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

NEWS IN BRIEF.

East.

The party of German statesmen, lawyers, officer and journalists, who were invited by Mr. Henry Villard to witness the opening of the Northern Pacific railroad, arrived in New York on the Bremen steamer Elbe, after a pleasant passage. They were welcomed by Mr. Villard and a number of his friends. A fire broke out in a Boston tenement-house, and four of the inmates were suffocated before a rescuing party could reach them. One man was fatally injured in jumping to escape. R. S. Wolf & Co.'s wire factory at Amesville, N. Y. was burned, entailing a loss of \$75,000.

West.

The Presidential party arrived in the Upper Geyser basin of the Yellowstone Park on the 25th of August, after a horseback ride of 230 miles, and went into camp near Old Faithful geyser, which treated the excursionists soon after dismounting, with one of its hourly eruptions. The party were in the best of health and spirits. A sensational story is telegraphed from Idaho, to the effect that a band of cowboys had gone to Yellowstone Park to kidnap the President and hold him for a \$500,000 ransom; a Texas desperado was the leader of the gang; that five Indians were employed as guides, and that each member of the band was sworn by all the gods to do his duty.

At St. Louis Mo., Judge Noonan decided that the Downing law does not repeal the special act of 1857, which was submitted to a vote of the people and carried, and which permits of the sale of beverages and refreshments, other than distilled liquors, on any day in the week. This decision does not permit dram-shops which sell liquor, to keep open Sunday, and the beer saloons and garden-keepers are reported as happy. A duel was fought near Vandalia, Ill., by Louis Phillips and Jacob Rosenbrook. Each fired but once. The latter was killed instantly; the former lived only four hours. A railway conductor living in Chicago became so annoyed by the "shadowing" of detectives that he caused the arrest of one of the "spotters." In the Police Court the spotter was fined \$25 for disorderly conduct.

The prizes of the Knight Templar drill tournament, at San Francisco were awarded to the De Molais of Louisville, the Rapers of Indianapolis, and the St. Bernards of Chicago, in the order named. The sword of Raper Commandery of Indianapolis, won at the Chicago conclave, was attached for \$1,300 board bill. The boarding-house man agreed to furnish rooms for \$4, each of which was to give lodgment to four Knights. When the crush came eight persons were put in every room, and the commandery, after protesting, evacuated the premises in a body. The next triennial conclave will be held at St. Louis, in 1886. Thirty masked men from Park City, Utah, took Jack Murphy from the jail at Coalville, a neighboring town, and hanged him. Murphy was suspected of having shot a man named Brenham at Park City. A negro at Ogden, Utah, who killed the City Marshal and wounded another official, was taken from jail and lynched, the body being dragged through the streets. Ben Willhoit, a wealthy farmer of Bowling Green, Mo., used his toes to discharge a gun with which his brains were blown out.

South.

CITIZENS on both sides of the Rio Grande at El Paso have made up a purse of \$500 to secure the prize fight between Slade and Mitchell. The Alcalde of Paso del Norte, Mexico, has given permission for a mill on that side of the river.

P. W. MIDDLETON, a South Carolinian of illustrious descent, who recently passed away at Greenville, refused to cross Mason and Dixon's line since his library was destroyed by Gen. Sherman's army. Congressman Wm. F. Poole, of North Carolina is dead.

Foreign.

VOLCANIC eruptions in Java and other islands of the Malay Archipelago have resulted in fearful disasters. Scores of villages have been destroyed, and thousands of the inhabitants, including Americans and Europeans, have fallen victims.

AN enormous fete was given in Paris for the benefit of the sufferers by the earthquake. One hundred and 28,000 entrance tickets were sold, and nearly every purse-opening contrivance was used inside for furthering the purposes of the charity. Every celebrated actress had a booth for the sale of knickknacks. The ruins of the Tuilleries having been at last removed, the gardens and site of the celebrated edifice were used for the affair. Riots against the Jews are reported at several places in Hungary, notably at Egerszeg, where, for three days, shouts of "Murder the Jews!" were heard from 2,000 peasants, who wrecked the houses and shops of the Hebrews. It is stated that in the melee forty soldiers and rioters were killed. In the recent riots at Ekaterinoslav, Russia, the houses of 147 Jews were wrecked and twenty-eight

Russians were killed by soldiery. The loss to the Hebrews is 611,000 rubes.

THE British Parliament was prorogued Aug. 25. The Queen's speech betrays the facts that she is at peace with all foreign powers; that the troubles arising from the Tamative affair are being settled with France in an amicable spirit; that the convention with the Transvaal Government is not working satisfactorily; that she feels great satisfaction in being able to report an improvement in the condition of Ireland, and the works of parliament have shown its anxiety to promote the welfare of the Green Isle; that the state of trade in the British islands is sound, and that the agricultural depression in some districts has been relieved. A French and an English vessel came into collision in the English channel. The English steamer, the Woodburn, was disabled and sank. Eighteen of the crew were drowned. The French steamer was badly damaged, but was enabled to land her own passengers and those saved from the Woodburn at Plymouth. The convention of the Irish National League of Great Britain, which will meet at Leeds Sept. 27, will demand self-government for Ireland and direct representation for Irish laborers in Parliament. A report comes from Lisbon that Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, has closed the Upper Congo to commerce.

General.

EX-GOV. WILLIAM W. BOLDEN publishes a card in a Raleigh (N. C.) paper announcing his withdrawal from the Republican party, and stating he is not a member of the Liberal party.

THE Chicago Tribune remarks: "From the showing made by the clearing houses of the country it appears that business was 13 per cent. poorer in New York city last week than it was last year at this time, but 1 per cent. better everywhere else in America. While therefore, the showing is unfavorable as a whole, it need give the West little disturbance of mind. Plainly, the speculators are the ones who are suffering from the present squeeze. The total clearings were \$866,589,755 last week. They were over twice as large at the high-water mark of the great boom, with four less clearing-houses to make reports."

"Samuel J. Tilden," says a New York telegram, "apparently unmindful of the thousand and one things said about him and his Presidential aspirations, is just now assiduously devoting himself to yachting, and bids fair to blossom out shortly as a first-class sailor. This fondness of yachting on the part of Tilden, which has been developed, it is said, by a number of sailing excursions made during the present summer on one of the crack yachts of the New York Yacht Club, has taken a decided turn in the engagement of John Roach's magnificent steamer yacht, Yosemite, for the rest of the present season."

AN oil-tank of large dimensions exploded in the South Brooklyn (N. Y.) works, and the flaming fluid, which ran in all directions, severely burned many persons. The works were entirely destroyed, and sparks from the blazing structure fired Daniel Gray's sulphur-works, which suffered a loss of \$25,000. The damage to the oil company is \$60,000. Flames appeared in a tank at the South Brooklyn oil-works, and progressed until the building was consumed, together with the sulphur-works of Daniel Gray, the loss being \$85,000. Lumber-yards and other property at Williamsport, Pa., to the estimated value of \$500,000, were destroyed by fire. All places in Philadelphia where pools on horse-races were sold have been closed by the police.

Washington.

THE report of the Postmaster General will show that 3,000 postoffices were established during the last fiscal year; but, as many have been discontinued, it will appear that the net increase is about 1,840. This will put the total up to about 48,000, or a little less than one to every thousand people in the country. Of these about six thousand are money order offices.

A VACANCY having occurred among the lady clerks of the National Bank Redemption agency at Washington, the local civil-service examiners were requested to furnish a list of those eligible to the place. The names of the four who stood highest in the recent examination were submitted to the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, who selected Miss Minnie I. Hoyt, of Connecticut, a graduate of Vassar College, whose average at the examination was 88.96. She formerly received \$1,200 per annum in the census office, but only requested to be examined for a \$940 position.

SOME philosopher has said that "no thoroughly occupied man was ever unhappy." We have our doubts about that. As a rule it may be all right, but there are exceptions. We remember seeing a young man sit down on a hornet's nest once, when the hornets were at home. For a time he was the most thoroughly occupied young man we ever saw; and if he was not unhappy appearances are deceiving, that's all.—Middleton Transcript.

EX-County Clerk Andrew C. Warren fell three feet from a haystack foundation on his farm near Stanford, N. Y., and broke his neck. He died instantly.

THE FEVER TREE.

Some Interesting Facts About Its Wonderful Properties.

Correspondence Chicago Tribune.

FORT KROGH, MONT., August 17.—Now that the dread scourge yellow fever has again made its appearance in our country and bids fair to become an epidemic, I would like to call attention to the eucalyptus, or, as it is best known, "The fever tree." For one I may say I believe strangely in its virtues and its power to dry up miasmas and drive away fever. In proof of its usefulness I would ask those interested to read the following evidences and history of the eucalyptus:

Among his other great enterprises Garibaldi, the great Italian hero, engaged in planting the eucalyptus, or blue-gum tree, about Rome to prevent the malarial fever with which the inhabitants of that city were afflicted.

As this tree is little known in our country some accounts of it may not be uninteresting.

According to the best authorities it is an Australian production, and was first discovered by the French scientist, La Nillardiadiere, who visited Van Dieman's Land in 1792. It was brought into the South of France about the beginning of the present century, and noble specimens of it are now growing in the public gardens of Nice, Cannes, Hyeres, and Algiers. Its medicinal qualities did not, however, become known until about thirty years ago. The Spaniards first discovered that it was a preventive of fever, and the colonists of Tasmania used its leaves for a number of purposes. It was not until 1860 that its full power became known, and as a hygienic measure it was introduced into the Spanish realm as an antiseptic. The people of Valencia were suffering from malaria fever, eucalyptus trees were planted about the city, and a marked improvement in the healthfulness of the locality followed. So popular did it become that the trees had to be guarded, the inhabitants stealing the leaves every opportunity they had to make a decoction to drink. The Spaniards named the eucalyptus the fever tree, and soon after it was introduced into Algeria. It next traveled to the Cape of Good Hope, Corsica, Sicily, South America and California.

Garibaldi's attempt to introduce it into Rome was not entirely new; many years ago a few dozen specimens were planted about the walls, and although nearly all the trees lived but few of them are vigorous. After a trial of many years in Southern France it has failed to become hardy, or suck up and destroy the poisonous vapors of the swamps in which it was planted.

The Trappist monks of the Tre-Fontane set out large plantations of eucalyptus trees and have tended them with the utmost care. This may be fairly looked up as a decisive experiment. The place known as Tre-Fontane lies some miles south of Rome, and is the seat of a magnificent monastery. Its climate, once healthy in consequence of the destruction of all the timber in the vicinity, has become so deadly that notwithstanding its splendid buildings, rich mosaics, marbles, its frescoes, the place is wholly deserted during the summer months. To live there in July, June and August is said to be almost certain death.

WHAT IT HAS DONE.

The record of the eucalyptus tree as an antiseptic and disinfectant is excellent. The districts in which it is indigenous are healthy, and those into which it has been introduced and thriven have become healthy. A few miles from Algiers is a farm which was once noted for its deadly rivers. Life on it in the summer months was almost impossible. In the year 1867 the owners planted 1,300 Eucalyptus trees, and they grew nine feet in thirteen months and not a single case of fever appeared; nor has there been any fever there since. Now, if the Eucalyptus will make the sickly climate of the Pontane healthy, it can safely be relied on as an antiseptic and disinfectant, and I advise those curious in such matters to watch the success of the Trappist monks in its cultivation.

Near Constantine, Algeria, there were vast swamps, never dry even in the hottest months, and prospective of violent periodic fevers. About 14,000 Eucalyptus trees were planted there, and they soon dried up every square foot of the swamp and killed off all fevers. Maison Carrie, near Hanasch, was once a great market for quinine, as there was much fever, but since the blue gum has been planted there the demand has almost entirely ceased. Mexico and Cuba were also, a great many years ago, large consumers of quinine, and, as the mercantile books of exports show, since the introduction of Eucalyptus into those countries the demand has

greatly fallen off.

Mr. John P. Curry relates the successful completion of the contract for planting 200,000 slips of the Australian gum-tree, Eucalyptus, in the City of New Orleans. He says:

"The sprouts having been raised in a hot house, the planting of these trees commenced some six years ago, the City Government paying at the rate of 10 cents for each tree planted. It has already been proven beyond question that this tree, when full grown, absorbs or rather kills, the miasmas in all malarial and fever-ridden districts wherever planted. It is also believed by scientists and many medical experts that it will prove a safeguard against the spread of yellow fever, as it has been seen that since these trees have been planted in the City of New Orleans yellow fever has not become epidemic in that usually yellow-fever section."

It is reported that a very unhealthy railroad station in the department of Var, Southern France, has been made healthy by a grove of forty Eucalyptus trees. Efforts are now being made to introduce this wonderful tree into Ceylon as an antidote to jungle fever, and it is also being carried over in large numbers to the jungles of India. The English have given it great attention, but the most intelligent of English tree-growers believe it too delicate to stand the cold water of English springs. The Eucalyptus seems determined to make the tour of the world, but it will be found to grow best in the La Planta States and California.

IN CALIFORNIA.

Referring to our own country, planters have met with the most wonderful success in cultivating it on the Pacific coast. One gentleman, who planted several thousand trees at Wilmington, California, says: "When set out they were only from three to five inches in height, and in one year they grew 6 and 8 feet high."

But not only has the Eucalyptus tree become a favorite in California for its well-known medicinal properties, but it grows so fast and to such an enormous size that it is now being planted for wood.

Mr. J. H. Byers, who had a farm near the town of Colusa, on the west bank of the Sacramento River, planted 50,000 Eucalyptus of the narrow-leaved, iron-barked variety, which he intends growing as an orchard, the trees being set out about ten feet apart. His reason, he says, for planting iron-bark instead of gum tree—i. e., blue gum—is that they stand the frost better.

While I was at San Francisco, Mr. W. A. Matthews came down from Sacramento to purchase 50,000 Eucalyptus plants of the iron-bark variety, which he said he was going to plant on about 100 acres of land that has never been broken.

He said he would grow cotton the first year between the rows of trees and the second year sugar beets, after which the trees would be grown alone, as they would probably cast too much shade for the successful cultivation of crops with them. Mr. Matthews raised 50,000 trees in one season eight inches high, from two and a half pounds of seed gathered from trees grown in Oakland, California. This is quite important, as it proves that the native California seed will germinate quite as readily as the imported article. He used on one piece of land equal quantities of imported and California seed and said he found the result so much in favor of the California seed that hereafter he would use no other kind.

LET IT BE TRIED.

It is unnecessary to discuss further the merits of the eucalyptus tree. The evidence already adduced is so overwhelming in its favor that it must commend itself strongly to the favor of our farmers and tree-growers. It should be given a full and fair trial in all the States. I think it would thrive luxuriantly in the South; it should be planted at once in all our fever and ague districts, and if it will suck up and dissipate the poisonous vapors lurking in the swamps of Arkansas and other Southern States, it will do a service for America worth millions of dollars, and alleviate much suffering, as well as save many valuable lives. Let us by all means give the Eucalyptus a fair trial.

The Wilmington Enterprise reports that "Col. D. B. Wilson planted a park of 2,000 Eucalyptus trees on the 20th of March, 1875. The trees when set out were from four to six inches in height, and many of the lower branches in a year grew over four feet in length. It is no exaggeration to say that these trees have grown four feet in five months. We have similar instances of the extraordinary growth of the eucalyptus in San Diego."

The Eucalyptus has a tall, reddish, smooth stem, with ragged, hanging bark, and a delicious, odor-

ous, gummy smell. It grows to a diameter of from forty to forty-five inches. It is used as a scent for cigars, medicine, tonic, throat lozenges, and, above all, as a bath.

The leaves and small branches are put in hot water, and it is said that such baths remove neuralgic pains, rheumatism, and the malaria incident to the country. The flower of the Eucalyptus tribe is very like the myrtle flower, is full of honey, and attracts a multitude of flies, bees, etc., and the birds naturally follow, for they find not only food but thick, warm, leafy cover in winter, and shelter from the burning sun in summer.

Finally, my opinion is that the cultivation of the Eucalyptus tree will prove a powerful agency in the eradicating of the uninhabitable malarial regions of our Southern and Southwestern States. I believe that there is no disease to which flesh is heir that has not an antidote in some root, plant, herb or tree, reared by God's hand for that purpose. All that is required is the intelligence of man to find out the antidote and apply it; and although it would require more than human mind to discover and determine the remedies for all diseases, yet by patient study and experiments we may learn much, and among other things how to prevent yellow fever.

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