

IMPORTANT BILL.

The following is a complete and correct copy of the bill to secure the rights of the United States in the Pacific Railroad, a synopsis of which was incorrectly reported by overland telegraph, and printed in the telegraphic dispatches of our issue of the 10th instant:

Mr. Howard, (Rad., Mich.) called up the bill to secure the interests of the United States in the Pacific Railroad, and said the Central and Pacific Railroad Companies had come to an agreement as to their point of meeting. He offered a substitute for the first and second sections of the amendment offered by him to the House bill the other day. Agreed to.

After considerable debate and some amendments, the bill was then passed in the following form:

Be it resolved, &c., That the stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, at a meeting to be held on the 22d day of April, 1869, in the City of Boston, with power to adjourn from day to day, shall elect a board of directors for the ensuing year; and said stockholders are hereby authorized to establish their general office at such place in the United States as they may select at said meeting: provided that the passage of this resolution shall not confer any other right on said Union Pacific Railroad Company than to hold such election, or be held in any manner to relinquish or waive any rights of the United States to take advantage of any act or neglect of said Union Pacific Railroad Company, heretofore done or omitted, whereby the rights of the general government have been or may be prejudiced, provided that the common terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad shall be at or near Ogden, and the Union Pacific Railroad Company shall build and the Central Pacific Railroad Company shall pay for and own the railroad from the terminus aforesaid to a promontory summit, at which point the rails shall meet, and connect, and form one continuous line.

SEC. 2.—And be it further resolved, That to ascertain the condition of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad, the President of the United States is hereby authorized to appoint a board of eminent citizens, not exceeding five in number, and who shall not be interested in either road, to examine and report upon the condition of the same, and what sum or sums, if any, will be required to complete such of said roads to the point of terminus as a first-class road for the entire length thereof to the said terminus, in compliance with the several acts relating to said roads; and the expense of such board, including an allowance of ten dollars each for their services for each day employed in such examination or report, to be paid equally by said companies.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the President is hereby authorized and required to withhold from each of said companies an amount of subsidy bonds authorized to be issued by the United States under said acts sufficient to secure a full completion as a first-class road of all sections of such road upon which bonds have already been issued, or, in lieu of such bonds, he may receive as such security an equal amount of the first mortgage bonds of such company; and, if it shall appear to the President that the amount of subsidy bonds to be issued to either of said companies is insufficient to insure the full completion of such road, he may make requisition upon such company for a sufficient amount of bonds already issued to said company, or in his discretion, of their first mortgage bonds, to secure the full completion of the same; and in default of obtaining such security as in this section provided, the President may authorize and direct the Attorney-General to institute such suits and proceedings on behalf and in the name of the United States, and in any court of the United States having jurisdiction, as shall be necessary or proper to compel the giving of such security, and thereby, or in any manner otherwise, to protect the interests of the United States in said road, and to insure the full completion thereof as a first-class road, as required by law.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That the Attorney-General of the United States is hereby authorized and directed to investigate whether the charters of the Union and Central Pacific Railroad Companies and all their franchises have or have not been forfeited, and to institute the necessary and proper legal proceedings; also, to investigate whether said companies have or have not made any illegal dividends upon their stock; and if so, to institute the necessary pro-

ceedings to have the same reimbursed; and also to investigate whether any directors or other agents, or employees of the said companies have not violated any penal law; and if so, to institute proper criminal proceedings against the persons who have violated such law.

SEALS AND SEA LIONS—THEIR PHYSIOLOGY AND TOPOLOGY.

Seals and sea lions flock together in the winter time and go south, and in the summer north. The seal lives on the sea cabbage. During the spring, from the 15th of April, they settle in myriads in Behring's Copper, Blijine, Andreanovki, Fox, St. Paul's and St. George's Islands. The male seal or seakach, in the spring guards more than two hundred females. The seakach is very large, and is then about five years old. It has great influence over the herd of females. It seeks out the highest rock on the coast, where it can rest or play. We ask traders why they have gone north to kill these animals. Was it because they were so troublesome that they disturbed the peace of San Francisco, or for the purpose of exterminating them? The reply has been given us, "only for commerce." If, then, for commerce, we will write from a commercial standpoint.

A trained and skilful hunter will never kill the seakach while it is on the rocks, because they know that it would drive away the seals. If the seakach dies a natural death, or in war, which often prevails among these animals, it makes no impression among the seals, unless they smell their own blood, when they become frightened and plunge again into the sea.

Seals give birth to young in the month of September; and the rocks are then covered with the pups. They never have more than two in a litter. Their voices resemble the bleating of young lambs. They are suckled by the mother until they are able to go into the water, when they are required to look out for themselves. For economical reasons these animals should not be molested until the month of September. If the breeding females are driven away they will lose their pups. The old males should be killed in September, for the oil is more valuable than their fur. It is worth seventy-five cents per gallon. The meat is salted and eaten by the inhabitants of the different islands. The bones are also put to good use.

The Americans trading in Alaska last summer did not pay any attention to the seal oil. They all went after furs. The oil of 400,000 seals was thrown into the stream. An individual who was employed last summer at St. Paul's Island, spoke of the many thousands of dollars thrown into the stream. It is the best oil for machinery and lamps. Congress made regulations to protect the seals without knowing the habits or physiology of this animal. All its attention has been paid to St. Paul's and St. George's Islands. In this bill of protection no mention is made of the other islands, such as Blijine, Andreanovki and Fox Islands. Congress has never paid any attention to these islands, and greedy traders will exterminate the whole race of these animals which are in thousands from Unalashka to Atton, with firearms or any weapon that they have. There has never been any improvement made in seal hunting. Congress would like to protect the seal in the same manner that the old Russo-American company did, which was the most ignorant and conservative conceivable.

After our investigation, we give such knowledge as we possess about the manner in which this animal is killed. Seals go up on the beach in foggy weather or in the evening. They are so fat that on hot days they prefer the water. After sunset the Aleuts drive them into the mountains; then they separate the females and young ones from the males, kill all the males, and drive the other portion back into the sea. The male seal should be killed when it is one year old, and in the months of September and October, for their fur is very valuable in these two months and at that period of their life. One firm last summer, had 40,000 females one year old, killed in August and September, for they were aware that the fur was very valuable at that time. After they are three years old their fur is not so valuable. After the seal is skinned the fat should be carefully taken from the skin, then salted and put in barrels. To preserve one seal skin it takes eight pounds of salt. No more can be killed than can be preserved in one day, because the fat eats up the fur. The dressing of the seal is done altogether in England. If it is not carefully prepared, when passing the tropics the fat destroys the fur.

The seals, at the end of October and the early part of November, emigrate to the southwest or to the Japanese Islands. They are not afraid of ice, but prefer a milder climate in the winter season. We are certain, from some stated facts, that they make this place their abode during the winter. The Japanese use their skins for winter garments.

Thesea lion is the size of a seal, and is similar to the seal in habits. Shooting is the manner in which they are killed. Great attention must be paid in the killing of the sea lion, as one spent ball will frighten the whole herd into the sea. The meat is much liked by the natives. The fat gives a good oil and the hide is valuable and used for many purposes. The natives of Alaska use the hide to make barks or boats for their own use. Many beautiful and valuable fur-bearing animals living in the water and on the land, are found at St. Lawrence and St. Matthew's Islands. We have seen some skins from St. Lawrence as large as the leopard, and of the same form, spotted black and white, and as soft as the sable. There are in the northern regions numerous species of fur-bearing animals which live on land and water—sea lion, sea bear, sea elephant, sea mink, bearded seal, crested seal, etc.—San Francisco Herald.

SCIENCE.

Before the imprint of the *Journal* bears date of 1900, science and art will have so far advanced as to have effected complete revolutions in many of the industrial processes and methods of securing health, comfort and convenience to the human race.

Vast gas manufactories will be found in all the great cities and towns, in which the invisible agent will be manufactured solely for the purpose of cooking the food and warming the dwellings of the inhabitants. These works will be independent of those established for making illuminating gas. It will not be necessary to purify the fuel gas so fully, and it will, in most places, be made from wood. The cost will be so low, and the convenience so great, other kinds of fuel will, in a large measure, be dispensed with. No ashes, no smoke, no dust—what a glorious realization this will be. At that time the air, the earth, and the sea will be full of conducting wires, and electric currents will flow constantly in every direction. A new order of things will prevail in our post-offices. The click of the telegraph instrument will be heard, instead of the snap of the lock which closes up the wide mouths of the mail-bags. The small sum of ten cents (perhaps less) will place correspondents in instant communication with each other, no matter how widely they may be separated. Although the industrial arts will have enormously increased, less steam power will be employed. Electrical, or some other of the hidden forces of nature will be harnessed to the primary moving wheels of the great manufacturing establishments, and smoke and vapor will no longer mark their location to the distant traveler.

The sick will not be required to swallow disgusting doses of medicine. Remedies will be administered through other avenues than the stomach. Chemistry will have eliminated the vital active principles from all curative agents; and, through the cellular subcutaneous coverings, and by other at present closed doors of access, the influence of therapeutic agents will be brought to bear directly upon diseased parts. Light will be let in upon nearly all the organs of the body, so that the physician can observe the extent and nature of disease, and no longer be compelled to diagnose in the dark.

The publishers of this and other journals will perhaps be able to issue simultaneous editions in all the great central cities of the country. A knowledge of practical science will be more generally diffused among the people, elevating and improving the masses, and consequently rendering them happier, healthier, and better fitted for the duties and responsibilities of life.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

Chemists and others know well the difficulty of keeping very volatile liquids. Bottles of ether, for example, are shipped for India, and when they arrive are found to be more than half empty. The chemist sometimes puts a bottle of benzole or bisulphide of carbon on his shelves, and when he next requires it he finds the bottle empty and dry. The remedy with exporters is a luting of melted sulphur, which is difficult to apply and hard to remove. A new cement, therefore, which is easily prepared and applied, and which is said to prevent the escape of the most volatile liquids, will be useful information to

many. It is composed simply of very finely ground litharge and concentrated glycerine, and is merely painted around the cork or stopper. It quickly dries, and becomes extremely hard, but can be easily scraped off with a knife when it is necessary to open the bottle.—*American Artisan.*

A MENAGERIE LOOSE IN MISSISSIPPI.

FOREST, Miss., March 24, 1869.

Several days previous, immense posters were posted on all the walls in town, announcing that Reynolds' Great Mexican Gymnasium and Menagerie would exhibit in Forest on that day. Early in the morning all the roads leading to town were thronged with people of all ages, sexes and colors, and by ten o'clock the whole town was alive with visitors awaiting the arrival of the menagerie. At eleven the fine brass band announced the arrival of the show, and by twelve the canvas was stretched and the cages of the animals arranged.

The huge elephant Hercules—the largest ever imported into this country—was chained to a stake, and by way of caution to those entering the canvas, Mr. John Alston, his keeper, stated that he had for several days manifested a disposition of insubordination, and begged that no one would approach sufficiently near to receive a blow from his trunk. Mr. Mark Kite, from the northern part of this county, coming in after Mr. Alston's admonition, thoughtlessly handed him a piece of tobacco, which so enraged him that he struck at him with such violence as to dislocate his shoulder, although it was a glancing blow. He plunged with such force that he broke his chain, and though his keeper used every effort to subdue him, he was entirely uncontrollable, and he would strike and kick at every object near him. By this time the scene was beyond description. The vast crowd fled for life. He flew at his keeper and pursued him from under the canvass.

The eleven o'clock freight train being behind time, and not having any freight for Forest, and the engineer not intending to stop, came rushing along at the rate of twenty miles an hour. When it had approached within two hundred yards he looked up the road and seemed doubly enraged. He immediately ran toward it with great speed, and met it with such a shock that he broke one of his tusks, and was immediately killed. The engine was detached from the train and thrown from the track, and Mr. Wharton, the engineer, having failed to shut off steam, it unfortunately ran into the canvass and smashed the lion's cage, killing the lioness and releasing the lion. The lion, finding himself uninjured and at liberty, and being frightened by the steam and whistle of the engine, started at full speed down the Homeward road, roaring terrifically. He had gone but a short distance when he met Mr. Sheppard, and gave chase. Mr. Sheppard, finding that he was gaining on him rapidly, and that he would certainly be overtaken, attempted to climb a sapling. He struck at him with his paw as he ascended, but fortunately did no other damage than to tear off his coat tail and carry away a part of his pants.

Mr. John Smith, of Raleigh, who was on his way to Forest, riding his fine pacing horse, with his little son behind him, met him four miles from here. As soon as his horse saw him he neighed, when the lion rushed at him, seized him by the throat, and threw him upon the ground. Mr. Smith, with his little son, escaped to the woods, and made their way to Forest on foot.

While he was devouring Mr. Smith's horse, Mr. James J. Ritch, who was on his way to Forest with a load of chickens, drove up. As soon as he saw him, he reared on his hind feet, lashed the ground with his tail, and sprang at him. Mr. Ritch eluded him by jumping from his wagon, when he mounted, and began to tear open the boxes containing the chickens, and turned them out. He then seemed to lose sight of everything in his efforts to catch them.

When the excitement in town abated, about twenty mounted men, well armed, started in pursuit, with all the dogs belonging in town, as well as many that had followed their owners. Mr. Reynolds, the owner of the lion, begged them not to kill him, and sent several men with the crowd with instructions to capture him if possible; but no doubt the citizens will kill him as soon as they overtake him.

It is reported that he killed a freedman in Smith county, near Mr. Thomas Husband's, and that when last heard from he was going down Ochoa. The news that a lion is at large, spreads like wildfire, and the citizens are greatly excited.—*Mississippi Republican.*