

authority. Yesterday, however, it was learned from an inside source that whether or not the company intends to have a road into Denver from the East at once, it undoubtedly does intend to build immediately from Denver to the West.

A gentleman who has been acting as confidential agent of the company was seen yesterday by a reporter. Of course he professed the most dense ignorance at first, but was soon driven into a corner and admitted that the information was correct.

"We were a little too smart for you fellows," said he, "when we filed those articles of incorporation, but I suppose the thing has got to come out now, and it doesn't matter much anyhow, as the company is nearly ready to go ahead."

"How far have you got?"

"All the preliminary surveys have been made and a construction company, with a capital of \$10,000,000, has just been formed to build the road."

"Who are in that company?"

"You had better wait a little while until things are ready. I don't want to tell just yet."

"Where will the road run?"

"From Denver it will go to Boulder, and there it will turn about due west to Ward and the Hot Springs and on through Middle park. The line will come out at Provo, after penetrating the Strawberry country, and will then run up to Salt Lake and Ogden. The *News* was very close to us some time ago, when it gave the information that a railway had been getting possession of large quantities of land along the Yampa River."

"What advantages will your road have?"

"From Denver to Ogden will be 242 miles shorter than by the present route of the Union Pacific and 287 miles shorter than by the Rio Grande. It will pass through a splendid country, full of wealth of all kinds and needing only a railroad to develop it. The short line will open up a part of Colorado that has been neglected, and will add untold millions to the wealth of the state. The building of this road will not interfere with the line which the company is going to put through Wyoming. It will connect with that line and give this city another independent outlet to the Pacific Coast. This company is rapidly developing one of the greatest railway plans ever matured, even in this country, and it should be remembered that it is not asking a dollar of assistance from the government."

"What eastern company is concealed in it?" was asked.

"You may be sure that there is plenty of money behind it," was the reply.

Nearly all the chief officials of the company, including Messrs. Jones, Wendell, Goodwin, D. McKenzie and Manager McLean have expressed themselves as enthusiastic over the prospects of the Wyoming line, but have not sounded from the housetops anything about their little project in this region. —*Denver News.*

IS THE SUN GROWING COLD.

We want to know whether the sun is showing any symptoms of decay, says the *Story of the Heavens*. Are the days as warm and bright as they were ten years ago, one hundred years ago? We can find no evidence of any change since the beginning of authentic records. If the sun's heat had perceptibly changed within the last 2,000 years we should expect to find corresponding changes in the distribution of plants and animals, but no such changes have been detected.

There is no reason to think that the climate of ancient Greece or ancient Rome was appreciably different from the climates of the Greece and the Rome that we know at this day. The vine and olive now grow where they grew 2000 years ago. We must not, however, lay too much stress on this argument, for the effects of slight changes in the sun's heat may have been neutralized by corresponding adaptation in the pliable organisms of cultivated plants.

All we can certainly conclude is that no marked change has taken place in the heat of the sun during historical time. But when we come to look back into the vastly earlier ages we find the most copious evidence that the earth has undergone great changes in climate. Geological records can on this question hardly be misinterpreted. Yet it is custom to note that these changes are hardly such as could arise from the gradual exhaustion of the sun's radiation. No doubt in very early times we have evidence that the earth's climate must have been much warmer than now. We had the great carboniferous epoch, when the temperature must almost have been tropical in Arctic latitudes. Yet it is hardly possible to cite this as evidence that the sun was then much more powerful, for we are immediately reminded of the glacial epoch when our temperate zones were encased in sheets of solid ice, as northern Greenland is at present. If we suppose the sun to have been hotter than it is at present to account for the vegetation which produced coal, then we ought to assume the sun to be colder than it is now to account for the glacial epoch. It is not reasonable to attribute such phenomena to such oscillations in the radiation from the sun. The glacial epochs prove that we can not appeal to geology in aid of the doctrine that a secular cooling of the sun is now in progress.

The geological variations of climate may have been caused by changes in the earth itself, by changes in the position of its axis, by changes in its actual orbit; but, however they have been caused, they hardly tell us much with regard to the previous history of the sun. The heat of the sun has lasted for countless ages, yet we cannot credit the sun with the power of actually creating heat. We must apply even to the majestic mass of the sun the same laws which we have found by our experiments on the earth. We must ask: Whence comes the heat sufficient to supply this tremendous outgoing?

THE GRAND ROQUETTE.

It rests with the public prosecutor and not with the judge to determine in what prison a delinquent sentenced by the courts shall be confined. Prisoners condemned for crimes of comparatively minor importance may obtain permission to pass the time of their sentence in the Grand Roquette Prison on condition of paying twelve cents a day, or a little over \$43 a year, to the state. But owing to the limited number of trades pursued in the establishment, few of the prisoners there are set to the trade they have been brought up to, so that they are generally obliged to learn a new one. Nor is there always work sufficient for all the inmates, as that depends upon the demand in the markets; owing to this circumstance, there are often upward of 250 men without work, who lounge in the yard, or crowd in winter to the *chauffoir*, a large heated room on the ground floor. A prisoner of the lower class, having no respectable connections, will seldom get the option of serving his time in solitary confinement, and thereby earning a remittance, as the cells are scarcely ever vacant; and he is removed elsewhere.

It is a strange sight to see the men shuffle and shamle with slouching gait round the exercise yard. One has only to look at them to be persuaded that the system of promiscuous repression is not calculated to deter men from crime, and that there is some virtue in solitary confinement from the first.

Four hundred men come out at a time. Speaking is strictly prohibited, but it would seem as though nothing could prevent this rule from being infringed. As the prisoners walk round and round there is a buzzing, murmuring sound, like the humming of a top, arising from the whispering exchanged, in defiance of the warders, who walk round in an opposite direction to that taken by their charges.

Close to the chapel are two stalls or booths, one of which communicates with the kitchen under the management of a prisoner who holds the post of cantinier or sutler, while the other is used by a marchand de coco, who sells cocoa or liquorice juice to his customers, each of whom, on payment of the sum stipulated in the tariff, can also purchase a demisetier or the fifth of a liter of wine. The prisoner is not permitted to buy more than that quantity, as drunkenness makes the men dangerous.

The things to be bought at the prison canteen, besides wine, are café au lait, chocolate, butter, cheese, ham, sausages, eggs, salad, fruit, tinned meat, biscuits, stationery, tobacco and snuff.

The Café Riche and the Palais Royal, as these two booths are called, play an important part in the life of the inmates. Prisoners are allowed to smoke in Parisian jails. This prevents that illicit traffic in tobacco which brings so many prisoners and warders to trouble in foreign prisons, and it also supplies a ready means of punishing a refractory jailbird.