

EDITORIALS.

E. R. CONNECTION FOR MONTANA.

THE Montana people seem to have come to the conclusion that the Northern Pacific R. R. is indefinitely postponed, and that Montana will have to give material encouragement to secure the early construction of a railroad connection with the rest of the country. Other important questions on the subject remain to be discussed, such as the kind of road, the route, and the action for the Montanians to take in order to secure the building of the road.

The *New North-West* says—

"The Territory has several avenues of approach. A road from Bismarck or Cheyenne to Bezenan would not accommodate all portions of the Territory; nor would one from Utah via Henry's Lake, the Madison and Missouri valleys to Helena, accommodate Beaverhead, Deer Lodge and Missoula counties. It is suggested a road from Utah via Pleasant Valley into Beaverhead valley under Territorial encouragement, leaving the western, central, and eastern portions of the settled territory to extend the trunk or branch lines to their several regions as they might determine, would divest the subject of objections that might otherwise arise."

A railroad meeting was held at Bozeman, Feb. 6, and a committee appointed to pursue the subject. The committee reported, Feb. 12, as follows—

"The committee appointed at a railroad meeting, held in Bozeman, on the 6th inst., which was instructed to open correspondence with the different sections of the territory, and with Utah, Dakota, and Wyoming, report the following as the course of action adopted:

"1. This committee shall, and does hereby, invite the appointment by the various sections of Montana, of delegate to a territorial road convention, which this committee will attend—said convention to be held in Helena, on the 1st day of April next, at noon.

"2. This committee hereby invite early reply to this invitation from the different sections of the territory, that no delay or uncertainties may result.

"3. A copy of this report shall be sent to each paper in the territory, and to the press of Utah, Dakota and Wyoming.

"P. W. MCADOW, Chairman,
H. N. MAGUIRE, Secretary,
J. S. MENDENHALL,
L. S. WILLSON,
JOS. WRIGHT,
NELSON STORY,
J. V. BOGERT, Committee.

Railroad connection with the Union and Central Pacific railroads via Utah, would have several advantages for Montana. There is particularly first, the advantage of a railroad, going north, already built and with prospects of early extension northwards and southwards, namely, the Utah Northern, which is a narrow-gauge, cheapest to build and cheapest to operate; second, a road to connect the Utah Northern with Montana would give the Montanians the most convenient communication with both the Union and the Central Pacific railroads, with Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and, by and by, Arizona, also the rest of the Union, East and West, and with all the world.

FROZEN WATER PIPES.—The passing severe winter is noted in many eastern cities for freezing the water pipes to a very unusual extent, and suggestions are given as to preventives, etc., of such an inconvenient occurrence. The *Albany Express* has the following as a simple and effective method of thawing the ice in water pipes—

"When your water pipe is frozen take the brine that is commonly

used in preserving pickles, pork, etc., place the same into a piece of muslin, wrap it around the water pipe, allow it to remain a short time and if the water don't come then it will be the fault of—the reservoir."

The *Express* does not say how the brine is to be held in the muslin to effect the cure.

Here is a preventive worth considering, from a Washington paper—

"An architect and engineer of standing writes to a New York paper that experience has taught him that in 'culm,' or the waste product of coal breakers, we have an almost certain preventive against the action of frost, which rarely penetrates these vast banks of coal dust more than twenty inches. Water pipes that are laid under two feet of culm and one foot of earth are seldom if ever affected by frost. Interior pipes, boxed and packed with this material, have passed through the most trying seasons. Terrace walls and all kinds of retaining walls are perfectly protected by a thickness of two feet of culm behind and next to them. By this means moisture is prevented from entering the wall, and the consequent peeling off of the face-pointing, the throwing and bulging of the wall is thus obviated. The same writer says he has found slate an excellent substitute for iron in coal-hole covers, and for the treads of iron and stone steps. Ice or snow does not seem to stick to it."

In reference to the preservation of vegetables, liquids, etc., in cellars during the severe winter, it may be observed that frost does not penetrate more than a few inches into sand compacted by its own weight only, and scarcely at all if kept dry.

CAME OUT AT LAST.—Pope Pius IX was so hurt at the occupation of the city of Rome by Victor Emanuel's Italian army in September, 1870, that His Holiness shut himself up in the Vatican, and never came outside until the 4th of last month, February, on which occasion he paid a visit to the Basilica of St. Peter.

In a recent letter to the Lent preachers, the old gentleman sends his salutation in this way, "*Salute vos ecclesia quæ est in Babylone*," and then discourses in the following not very cheerful style—

"We do not, indeed, see in Rome the temples which St. Peter found there, consecrated to idols; but idols are not wanting against which we ought to fight. There is no temple dedicated to Jupiter, but there is the Jupiter of skepticism and unbelief, which, with his thunderbolts, would burn to ashes the same divinity; and as he has despoiled the church of Jesus Christ of everything, he would make it disappear from the face of the earth. There is no temple dedicated to Mercury, but who can say how frightfully thieves, his worshippers, have multiplied. There is no temple in honor of Venus, but there are hundreds and hundreds of houses where many souls incur eternal damnation. But this is not all. There are Protestant churches, which, if they can be deemed less dangerous, yet form a ground for great sorrow. In Rome, predestined by God as the capital of the great Catholic family; in Rome, made precious by the blood of martyrs; in Rome, justly decorated with the title of Mistress of the Truth, I cannot but feel grieved at seeing within the very walls where rise the majestic temples of the Christian religion, halls and congregations start up by their side, where they pretend to worship God by heresy, which is a rebellion against Him. What ought, moreover to excite your zeal as shepherds of souls is the opening of certain schools where, generally speaking, impiety is dominant and efforts are made by all means to corrupt childhood and youth."

OPEN WINTER.—The Cleveland, O., *Herald* is powerfully struck with the reports of our "open winter." The fact that the mercury was at 40 to 52 in the shade here in the middle of February, while at

Cleveland, in nearly the same latitude, the mercury ranged between two and eight degrees below zero, seems to have left a more than ordinary impression upon our Ohio contemporary. It is true, residents in this valley have been favored with an exceptionally mild winter, but if they had wished to see the mercury sink remarkably below zero they could have been gratified by a day's journey up the adjacent mountains.

HARD TIMES.—This is how a Baltimore lady correspondent of a Washington paper talks of the hard times and the not very encouraging prospects—

"Our merchants, who have idly stood behind their counters all winter, see no prospect of a lively spring trade. The 'machine' at Washington, which turned out paper-money so rapidly during the war, and kept up fictitious values until contractors and speculators grew fat and rich, seems to be making backward revolutions. Money hides away, and values shrink daily. Fortunes made in a few months, under the plethora of greenbacks, are melting into airy nothings, and many fine establishments are going up under the hammer of the auctioneer.

"We have no magnificent Jay Goulds or thieving Tweeds. Our stealings are modest, and large fortunes are not made nor squandered in a day in this slow-going city, yet in these panicky times the most careful and successful business men find it difficult to make both ends meet.

"If the stringency continues and husbands have no money to give their wives for shopping, the domestic atmosphere will become as heavy with gloom as the political outlook. Nothing is so trying to feminine philosophy as to see the beautiful things in Easter's and Broadbent's windows and not be able to buy them. We try to 'possess our souls in patience,' but would rather possess a few more silks and laces. When their pin-money is cut off, my sex grow rebellious."

ALL UNDONE.—An exchange says—

"The good wives and husbands of Indiana will be dumbfounded

The Cincinnati *Gazette*, after a careful scanning of the business outlook, comes to the conclusion, now that the bottom has been reached, and "the days of shrinkage are gone," that the said outlook is favorable to a general revival of trade, and that the close of 1875 will no doubt mark a very decided improvement as compared with 1874.

Yesterday being the anniversary of Washington's birthday, or, as it has been called, "little hatchet day," several of the New York papers intermitted publication, probably because they didn't want to tell any lies on the sainted occasion. For the same reason, perhaps, the Beecher trial was adjourned over.—*Washington Star*, Feb. 23.

When they learn that the marriage law of 1852 (under which all matrimonial contracts have been made since that date) is unconstitutional, null and void, and, consequently, all marriages under that law are illegal."

That is the fault of the law, not of the married people. People must and will get married, law or no law. So just make the law to suit.

HAPPY YET.—Watertown, N. Y., has been afflicted by the failure of two of its banks, a nine days' snow blockade, and a smallpox epidemic introduced with rags brought to one of the paper mills, and of which disease a number of people died. Yet a citizen of that place says the Watertown people are comparatively happy yet, and here is the reason why—

"Tell our Utica friends that we have lost considerable money; have been cut off from the rest of civilization by snow, and just now are slightly troubled with smallpox in

the paper mill region, but thank the Lord, we are happy because nothing as bad as the Beecher-Tilton scandal has been heaped upon our heads."

THE FORCE BILL.

Most fortunately for the country, the bill known as the "Force Bill," did not pass Congress and become a law, for if it had passed both houses it undoubtedly would have become a law, as the President has shown himself ready to sign bills that would empower him to force things. If the bill had become a law, it would have been the end of assured personal liberty in the United States. Now there is no prospect whatever of the passage of such a revolutionary act by Congress, as it is of a class diametrically opposed to the principles of the party which will be the dominant party in Congress next session, as well as absolutely subversive of the fundamental principles of the American government. It was a narrow escape, however, from the passage of a law which, if passed in monarchical England, would have created a popular revolution against it there. The bill passed the House and was twice read in the Senate, but appears to have rested there, and to have so failed, for a blessing.

The Boston *Post* has the following sharp comments—

"One thing at least is positive, that the enactment of such a measure into law will prove the heaviest millstone that ever dragged down a political party into the unexplored depths of oblivion. Military rule is a new and startling dogma that is repugnant to every instinct of the American mind. Partisans and political bigots may defend it, but even they would not venture on the experiment if the executive were a man of any but a strictly military habit of mind and an ambition that seeks to climb by military force alone.

"The People will not fail to protest in their most indignant phrase against this threatened inauguration of a military within a civil government, to override the latter and set it aside whenever and wherever the one administering it shall think it conducive to his interests. It would be perilous enough if such a measure as this force bill were to be executed by a Chief Magistrate, without further official ambition, and a civilian only; but when the sword is deliberately placed by Congress in the hands of an executive who is restlessly seeking to perpetuate his power, the danger becomes so great that no explanations are able to compose the people's fears. Let the President be clothed with absolute power, under this bill, over the South, and when the vote counting time comes in Congress in 1877 it is perfectly easy to understand how it may be transferred by him to the capitol, to settle disputes of his own designing, by forcing an overwhelming majority of the people to submit to his will with the alternative of asserting their own after the example he has set them. The ultimate consequences of such a measure as this threaten to be too grave almost for present consideration, and still it is impossible to overlook them."

VICE IN NEVADA.

THE Nevada legislature has been engaged in discussing the subject of gambling. A severe prohibitory bill against this vice was presented and discussed, but, it is openly stated, was prevented from being passed through the use of shameful bribery. Numbers of members were positively bought over to oppose it, the money for the purpose having been raised by a levy upon the various local gambling houses.

Later another bill was introduced, which licensed gambling, but at a high rate, \$400 per month. This has not passed yet.

That there is a necessity for some kind of rigid repressive legislation for this vice in the State named is acknowledged. The Central Pacific

Railroad Company complained that they could not abolish gambling on their cars while the State of Nevada held it legal and permitted it. The Virginia *Enterprise*, in an article with the title, "What our Vices Cost Us," says—

"The State of Nevada, with 55,000 people, has 900 licensed places where liquors are retailed. This is at the rate of one liquor dealer to each 61 inhabitants. It is estimated that the receipts of these liquor saloons average \$40 per day, or at the rate of 66 cents per capita. There are 250 places in Story county where liquors are retailed. The aggregate receipts of these saloons are \$10,000 daily. This is at the rate of \$200,000 per month, or \$3,000,000 yearly. To produce this amount, the daily labor of 2,500 miners at \$4 per day would be required. In the saloons of Story county is therefore spent daily in the purchase of liquors a sum equal to that earned by about all the miners in the county. This statement seems impossible, yet a glance at the statistics shows it to be pretty nearly correct. We are not moralizing, but giving facts. Are they not worth considering? But let us not stop just here. Let us make a further estimate of the money daily squandered in Story county in pandering to the popular vices of drinking and gaming. There are in the county twenty licensed gambling games. These games are sustained at an average daily cost of \$100 each, or \$2,000 daily. This does not include the winnings of the games, which doubtless aggregate as much more. But we will place the expenses and profits of these games at \$3,000 daily. We have, therefore—expended in liquors, \$10,000; expended in gambling, daily \$3,000. Total \$13,000—or, monthly, \$300,000, or, yearly \$4,680,000, which is equivalent to the labor of 3,200 miners daily, at the rate of \$4 per day. This is a very suggestive showing for a single county."

MONTANA MOVING.

A SCORE of the business and professional men and heavy tax-payers of Deer Lodge, Montana, according to report in the *New North-West*, assembled in that city, Feb. 19, W. A. Clark, Esq., Chairman, and Granville Stuart, Esq., Secretary, to take into consideration the matter of railroad communication.

Mr. Stuart addressed the meeting at some length, giving statistics, observations, and deductions favorable to a three-foot road as a railway line for a community, of the population and wealth of Montana, to promote the construction of.

The subject was further discussed by Judge Knowles, Mr. W. A. Clark, Col. W. L. Irvine, Hon. Wm. H. Claggett, Mr. Addison Smith, Col. L. J. Sharp, and others, resulting in the following points of general concurrence—

"That it was desirable to have a railroad constructed from some railway line now operated to settled Montana as early a day as possible; that the Northern Pacific railroad would not probably be extended in reasonable time; that the most practicable point of connection is with some railroad now being operated in Utah; that the building of a narrow gauge railroad is the most practicable to attempt to secure; that if general assistance is to be extended it should be to a railway from Utah via the most direct and advantageous route to some point on Beaverhead Valley, leaving the several sections of the Territory to connect therefrom by local effort; that assistance to the main line should be given with a view to not embarrassing the several localities beyond the power to give adequate assistance to the extensions; that it is desirable to have, before the meeting of the next session of the legislature, specific and reliable propositions from a corporation or persons possessing the means and desiring to construct such road, together with approximate estimate of its actual cost."

With a view to procuring information on the last named points, to ascertain a practicable route, etc.,