

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Newfoundland is the oldest British colony. Its population is to-day four to the square mile.

The Aldermen of Springfield, Mass., are spoken of by the *Register* as being "in circus attendance."

An Ohio man in New York sued for \$100,000 for his wife's affections. Upon his own showing her affections are not worth two cents.

You that "pooh pooh" the statement that coal oil storage is dangerous in populated districts, and call people "alarmists" who object to having oil tanks in their vicinity, read the dispatches to-day about oil disasters, and—may no more.

St. Nicholas for May will delight all the juveniles who are fortunate enough to get it. The engravings are splendid and the reading matter chaste and attractive. It leads in this class of literature. Published by the Century Co., New York, at \$3 a year.

The Boston Transcript, after a critical examination of the census of the city of Washington, concludes that there is probably no other tract of equal size on the surface of the earth in which so small a percentage of people is engaged in the production of anything which has a market value.

It would not be strange, after all, if the world were suddenly informed early in May that "the year has been crowned." If the actual ceremony could be accomplished with only the necessary official spectators, and without the knowledge of the general assembly, it will probably be done.

There is a strong demand in China that women shall qualify themselves as medical practitioners to serve the afflicted ones of their own sex. By the end of another half-century, female physicians all over the world will be so efficient and numerous that society will wonder how it ever got along so contentedly without them before.

A Texas paper tells this cheerful tale of the experimental school of medicine: "A woman came to a prominent physician and asked for a remedy for her husband's rheumatism. The doctor gave her a prescription and said: 'Get that prescription and rub it over your husband's back. It will do any good come and let me know. I've got a touch of rheumatism myself.'"

The docket of the Supreme Court of Boston is so crowded with divorce cases that judgments are sometimes rendered at the rate of ten in an hour. It is said that professional perjurers commonly give the testimony, swearing glibly according to instructions, and escaping exposure because, through collusion, there is nobody to examine them. An effort to turn all this business over to the Probate Courts, where it could receive proper attention, has failed in the Legislature.

In the Dominion of Canada the right of suffrage is restricted by property qualifications. Sir John Macdonald, the Prime Minister, has prepared a bill to liberalize the suffrage, but though it modifies the property qualification, it does not abolish it. He proposes to extend the right to vote to all who have an income of \$400 a year, to tenants paying an annual rental of \$20, to cities to owners of real estate valued at \$500, and in the counties to owners of real estate valued at \$300. Some of the owners of real estate are to be allowed to vote in the proportion of one vote to every \$300 of value. In addition, it is proposed that unmarried women may vote on the same condition as men.

A NEW MOTIVE POWER.

An English journal of practical science called *Coal*, gives some particulars of an alleged discovery which threatens to work a great revolution in motive power, superseding steam and cheapening the means of locomotive and machinery force. It is bi-sulphide of carbon in the form of vapor, which it is claimed has an expansion property of one cubic inch to eight thousand, while water vapor only expands in the ratio of one to seventeen hundred. It will take the form of vapor at 180° temperature, a little more than one-half of the heat required to make water vapor—320°—and thus a small amount of fuel will produce a large amount of force. Its action is thus described:

"When the vapor is generated it passes into the steam chest of the engine and moves the piston rod. A pipe attached to the engine conveys the exhaust vapor directly through a condenser back to the tank in the original liquid form to be generated. The system of generation and condensation is similar to the best action, and with machinery properly constructed, it is claimed that a single supply of carbon can be used with reinforcements for an indefinite period."

Is this anything like what Keely has been keeping secret so long? It is the fashion to make fun of his pretensions and indeed to ridicule all things that seem to be "new under the sun." But in these days of discovery and utilization of previously unknown forces it is wiser to listen than to laugh over novelties, and more rational to wait for developments than jump to hasty conclusions. That steam as a motive power will before long be superseded by some more convenient, cleanly and inexpensive form is, in the opinion of the great probabilities of the time.

ANOTHER FLAGRANT BREACH OF PROMISE.

Rumors of expected Indian outbreaks are frequently heard, and when investigated turn out to be either manufactured reports for a purpose, or the natural consequence of some wrong perpetrated by the whites upon the redskins. The injury is known, the outbreak in retaliation is therefore expected. The Indian scare in Washington Territory, which stirred up a note a short time ago, proves to be one of the latest named class.

The Indians under Chief Moses were reported to be about to go on the war path but have not yet committed any depredations. The scare was caused by another act of bad faith towards the natives, of the kind that has become very common. Moses and his band were removed several years ago, against their will and their earnest plea not to be taken from their old hunting grounds, to the north eastern part of Washington Territory near the Canadian line. This was done because the "superior" wanted the land belonging to the Indians along the Spokane and Colville Rivers, and the "Plain of the Columbia." In order to pacify the redmen the Government pledged itself that thenceforth Moses and his band should not be disturbed. Orders were issued withdrawing from public sale the region to which they were removed, and declaring it "set apart as a reservation for the permanent use and occupancy of Chief Moses and his people, and a reserve for the Indians as they may elect to settle thereon with his consent, and that if the Secretary of the Interior," the Indians submitted and there was no further difficulty at that time.

The agreement for permanent occupancy was definite and specific enough, but no more so than the contracts and treaties made by the Government with the pen and broken by the sword. On the 23rd of February last the Government issued an order declaring that tract of land in Washington Territory, "being a portion of the country set apart for the use of Chief Moses and his people, be, and the same is hereby restored to the public domain."

It was not for several weeks after the order was made public that the Indians heard of it. They were naturally very much excited. No warning had been given to them, no bargain or agreement entered into, the parties to possession were not even notified of the purpose of the Government. It was simply another breach of good faith, an arbitrary exercise of power—the strong against the weak, might over right. The Chief went to Fort Spokane to make inquiries, and could not believe at first that such double-dealing and bad faith could be exercised by the Government. His earnest protests were magnified into "rebellion," he was reported as a "bad Indian," seeking to stir up trouble, and the usual attempt was made by the whites, to obtain military aid to destroy the primal owners of the soil.

If it is thought by some people a one-sided account of the affair, let them take note of the annexed paragraph from the *Oregonian*, and of the fact that papers near an Indian country do not usually take sides in favor of the redskins:

"These lands were given to Moses and his people by express stipulation, which was confirmed by solemn oaths; yet here is a law passed to take a large part of the reservation away. It is not to be supposed that the *Oregonian* has sided in this matter upon his own motion. By whom were the representations made which led to the order? In case of an outbreak on the part of these Indians, somebody will have to answer this question. Of course it is well enough understood that the real cause, the cause behind all others, was a desire on the part of certain white persons, whoever they may be, to occupy their lands. But the Government should not trifle with the Indians in this manner. It is a disgraceful and criminal act, and is recorded on high against the nation guilty of such flagrant infidelity."

This promise-breaking has been one of the chief causes of the Indian wars that have cost the country so much treasure and the lives of soldiers and civilians. It is shameful and criminal, and is recorded on high against the nation guilty of such flagrant infidelity.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY.

AMERICAN.

COAL OIL CATASTROPHE!

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING!

Streams of Burning Oil!

Great Disasters at New Jersey and Chicago!

New York, 10.—The Standard Oil Works, Jersey City, were struck by lightning early this morning. Seven oil tanks have already exploded and the fire is still raging with terrible force. More disasters are feared; estimated loss \$50,000. 10 a.m.—The fire at the Standard Oil Company's works, New Jersey, is raging with new vigor. The tanks of the Jersey City Works, which hold 150,000 barrels are now being destroyed, including 250,000 barrels of oil stored in a warehouse. It is now thought the loss will reach \$750,000. 11 a.m.—The works of the Standard Oil Company at Communipaw, the most extensive in this country, are on fire and about one-half of the property is now destroyed. Chief Engineer Ferrier and a number of men were within ten yards of this tank when it exploded, and were saved almost by a miracle. Dropping the hose, which was soon burned to shreds, they fled for their lives. When they mustered together at a safe distance, six of their number were found missing. The smoke was so dense that it was impossible to tell which way one was going, and it is thought that the unfortunate men ran down to a river, and were lost. Their names are John Herbert, Superintendent; Joseph Jenkins, Foreman; George Davis, Engineer; Henry Rogers, laborer; Dick Conkling, laborer.

and Win. Curry, boiler maker. The waves of flaming oil had rolled in upon the engine house, carpenter's shop, machine shop, boiler and pump room, two warehouses, cooper shop and blacksmith shop, and they were a heap of ruins in an hour. Tank after tank was caught by the flames until seven out of 28 on the grounds were blazing. The tracks of the Pennsylvania road, which caught fire, and several rolling tanks on rails were only saved by having a fire piled on top of them. The day was a sheet of flame, and the long trestle bridge on the railway, about a quarter of a mile long, running from the works to Black Tom's Island was burned down to the water's edge. No bodies have been found for the heat renders close approach to the ruins impossible. The burning works extend, with those of the Basin Refinery, about three-fourths of a mile along the Bay and a quarter of a mile inland. 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