

track just below the mouth of Echo, the latter location is so much superior for a town, and there are probabilities of the work of tracklaying moving down Weber Cañon at a slow rate, that in all likelihood there may be another "magic" town built above the "Narrows," some distance below Henneferville, on the opposite bank of the river.

Down through the cañon men are working in every conceivable situation. Blasting solid rock and frozen earth; building protections to the grade against the rising of the river's flood; constructing massive abutments for substantial bridges; clearing the mountain sides of loose rock and everything that would endanger the safety of the line, and the travel over it; and all this whether the cold cañon wind is freezing up the river with the thermometer nearly at zero or the blinding storms drive furiously down the deep rift in the mountains at the bottom of which the river runs.

From the mouth of Weber Cañon to Ogden grading parties are busily at work; and from the nature of the ground it is probable they will have completed their jobs as soon as the grading is finished down the cañon. North of Ogden both companies are prosecuting the work with vigor; but, though the grade is measurably light for thirty or forty miles it may have to be suspended till Spring, for it is principally scraping, and the ground being frozen the plows cannot operate, while blasting under such circumstances would be so expensive that no contractor could make it pay to resort to such a means of opening the ground.

SILK CULTURE.—THE SOIL.

BY LOUIS A. BERTRAND.

"The tree full of God's blessings" delights in a deep, rich, light, loamy soil. Rich mulberry soil abounds in our mountain home. By rich soil, I mean a soil which, being naturally composed of calcareous substances, of silex, humus, cist, turfy matter, and also of a small portion of gypsum or clay, is consequently light, friable and perfectly permeable. Such soils possess in a high degree the self-recuperative powers enjoyed by many of our beautiful vales, whose loams have resulted from the decomposition of limestone rocks. In our "Big-Field," at Grantsville, and especially at Sessions, I have remarked large spots where the mulberry should grow with a most luxuriant strength. I can not boast of having travelled much in Utah, but I am satisfied that extensive tracts of mulberry soil exist in our northern and southern counties. The quantity of silk that those highly favored spots can produce will sooner or later astonish our people, and the world.

But I do not mean by the above to impress on the readers of the News that valley land is alone suitable for the mulberry. On our benches, and even on the hills, I have observed very fine mulberry soil. Our peculiar system of irrigation will enable us to transform thousands of barren spots into magnificent mulberry plantations. Brother Geo. D. Watt's small hut flourishing one is unquestionably a strong evidence of this assertion. And our best silk will be produced in the mountainous districts.

France and Italy are the largest silk-growing countries in Europe. Lombardy, but especially the rich plains surrounding the city of Milan, produce an immense quantity of silk, but its quality is far inferior to the silk raised on the mountains of Piedmont. The best silks in the world are produced in Les Cevennes, a mountainous district of France, as cold as, and perhaps colder than, Salt Lake Valley. I can not forbear to give here a glance on the past history of that famous silk-region. About ninety years ago, Les Cevennes offered to the tourist only dreadful chasms and torrents of cooled lavas; those bare mountains were without culture, without any vegetation; they were thinly inhabited by wild tribes who, by their roughness, wretchedness and ferocity, recalled to the memory the clans of Scotland. A few years after, everything was entirely changed; no more fallow fields, no more poverty were to be seen. Beautiful roads surrounded the mountains; everywhere comfort was found instead of want, humanity instead of barbarity; one would say it was a new people. However, it was only a new generation, born among groves of a tree unknown to their predecessors. That tree was the mulberry. It grows everywhere, on the most narrow spots, in the cavity of rocks; it encircles the hills, it crowns the mountains, and every village appears as in a verdant basket.

The most beautiful white silks in the

world are produced in Les Cevennes. For instance, the Sina race cocoons, raised and reeled on those mountains, constitute the only material with which the splendid laces of Caen, called *blondes*, and the matchless gauzes of Paris and Amiens are manufactured. With two pounds of that silk they can manufacture blonde worth 14,000 or 16,000 francs, about three thousand dollars in gold. Fair ladies and maidens of Utah, what do you think of that? I am relying upon you for raising here the Sina cocoons.

Before dropping the present subject, I would indicate a natural law by which every one can discover whether his locality is a mulberry soil or not. It is a fact, generally admitted by the greatest European authorities on silk culture, that every kind of soil where the peach tree grows and produces good fruit without being grafted, is suitable for the mulberry. Now, according to the evidences of that law, I am perfectly satisfied that every county in Utah, Cache and Bear Lake Valleys excepted, can profitably cultivate that valuable tree, and raise a superior silk. Fellow-citizens, plant immediately the mulberry in every field, in every corner or spot which is susceptible of irrigation.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

The roots of the mulberry tree striking downward, I will never cease to give this counsel to beginners, to thoroughly and deeply cultivate the soil before planting, and that cultivation common to every class of mulberry, becomes more or less necessary in the direct ratio of the permeability of the soils in which they are planted. What is the best time for planting? I do believe that, in our northern counties, it is preferable to adopt the spring season, in order that the culturist may avoid the severity of the winter for his young trees. In the south it will be better to plant in the fall, on account of the destructive droughts of the summer.

MULBERRY CULTURE.

The mulberry tree is propagated by seeds, by cuttings, by layers, and in Europe by grafting, in order to form standard and half standard trees. But I think we have no need of grafting in Utah for several reasons.

First, by seeds. The selection of the tree from which the seed is to be gathered is very important. You must choose a middle-aged one, stout, not growing in too rich soil; and you should prefer a tree from which the leaves have not been gathered for two years. The fruit must be perfectly ripe. Mash well the berries in a tub, then fill it with water in order to clear the seeds from the glutinous particles by which they are covered. To cause the bad seeds to swim over, supply the first water by new quantities, till the bottom of the tub is covered by the mass of the seeds—those are the only good ones.

Now, if the seed is to be sown in the spring, dry it on cloths in the shade, and, when perfectly dry, enclose it in hermetically corked bottles with the same amount of very dry sand, and keep your seed in a dry cool place where it lightly freezes—a too severe frost would hurt its vegetative power.

If, on the contrary, the seed is to be sown immediately (and then you must get it from the first ripe fruit), dry the seed just enough to separate them. If this be successful the sowing may be favorable. The young plants may obtain much strength before the winter, but in a cold climate they need to be protected against the frost by a light covering of earth.

The best time for sowing will inevitably vary much in Utah, according to the locality. When the young trees begin to spring out, through the earth they are very tender, and the least frost would kill them, especially in our northern counties where the temperature frequently undergoes extreme variations. Therefore it is impossible to point out exactly the time for sowing; it may take place from the beginning of April, for the warm localities, to the end of May for the cold ones. Sowing the mulberry seed during the summer being forbidden in all regions where the berries can not be gathered before the beginning of June, the season would be too short there to enable the young trees to acquire strength enough to stand the severity of the winter. Therefore, I advise the farmers of the north to sow in the spring.

Sowing in drills will facilitate the weeding. The rows should be three feet apart, and the seed planted not too thick. Cover them but half an inch deep; and irrigate frequently. When the young trees are coming out, you must hoe between the rows and weed carefully during summer; thin them out when needed.

ITEMS.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY.

POLICE.—Thomas Finwick, arrested for drunkenness, was fined five dollars and costs.

Charles Alfred, for being drunk, and creating a disturbance in the Theatre was fined twenty-five dollars, and paid it.

Wm. Cumberland was fined five dollars for drunkenness.

DEAD.—Edward Cuthbert, blacksmith, died this morning.

WILD MUSTARD.—Every person who has resided or traveled in California will recollect the wild mustard with which the country was infested. It was one of the greatest pests known to farmers. It has at length been utilized, and now forms an article of export from that country. It is said to be far superior to English or Eastern mustard for medical purposes, and is preferred by many for table use. A few days ago 781 sacks of it, of 100 pounds each, were shipped for New York. Our wild sunflower seeds, which are now such an annoyance, may yet be found valuable some day, and be utilized to good purpose.

U. S. MILITARY PRISONERS AND THE PENITENTIARY.—On the 3rd of last July two U. S. soldiers, who had committed crimes, were sentenced to imprisonment; and on the 5th of last October another military criminal was also sentenced to imprisonment. These convicts were sentenced by Court Martial to be imprisoned in the Iowa State Prison at Madison in that State; but Gen. Augur, when here last summer, changed the place of imprisonment from Iowa to Utah. The Warden of the Penitentiary, Gen. A. P. Rockwood entertained serious doubts about the propriety of keeping these prisoners at the expense of the Territory, and to satisfy himself upon the subject, and to have a clear understanding in relation to it, he addressed a letter to Gen. E. D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant General, Washington; and under date of the 9th inst., he has received an answer from General Townsend. The General informs the Warden that Brevet Major C. C. Augur, Commanding Department of the Platte, Omaha, Nebraska, has been instructed to make the necessary arrangements with the proper authorities for the payment of expenses attendant upon the keeping of U. S. military prisoners confined at the Utah Penitentiary. He also forwards to him an official notice, by order of the Secretary of War, to the effect that the Penitentiary of Utah Territory is designated as a prison for the confinement of military prisoners under sentence of Courts Martial in addition to those heretofore designated. By the action of the War Department, the action of Gen. Augur in committing these convicts to the Penitentiary has been legalized.

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY.

INFORMATION WANTED.—Brother Wm J. Andrews, of Paragonah, Iron Co. wants to gain some information of his mother, Harriet Andrews, and of his grandfather, Steven Mansfield. They resided formerly in Gosport, England, and crossed the plains in 1863, arriving here in the fall of that year in Daniel McCarthy's train.

DIED, at Panaca, Meadow Valley, Washington Co., U. T. on the 8th inst., Constanza Clarrinda, wife of Daniel M. Tallis. Deceased was the daughter of Daniel and Clarrinda Stanton, and was born in Davis Co., Missouri, April 24th, 1838.

DISINFECTANT.—Dr. Rowell, of San Francisco, stated at the Sanitary Convention at that City, that an excellent disinfectant can be easily and cheaply eliminated from common salt, black oxide of manganese and sulphuric acid. The salt we have in endless quantities, and we believe the manganese also. This receipt is worth remembering.

QUALITY SHOULD GOVERN PRICE.—It is the general practice in this city, if a man has wheat or other grain, butter, poultry, hay, etc., to sell, to expect a fixed price for these articles regardless of the quality. A man having poor hay, unclean wheat, middling butter, or inferior poultry to sell, in nine cases out of ten, asks the price which he hears first-class articles of the same kind bring. This must certainly strike every person of reflection as a very unfair way of doing business. If poor wheat is to sell for as much as good, what inducement is there for a man to take pains and go to expense in raising a first-class article? If any kind of flour is to bring as much in market as the best that can be manufactured, what incentive is there for millers to build costly mills with first-class machinery? So with hay, butter, poultry, and everything else. Such a practice is wrong, and should be frowned upon and broken up. Articles sold in the market should be graded in price according to their excellence; and no one should expect to get as much for frowny butter, (such as William Dunbar showed us a sample of the other day, the inside blue and mouldy and the outside galvanized with a coating of tolerable butter) as they would for a sweet, wholesome article. Sellers should be made to understand this, and then they may make greater exertions to produce a really good article.

CONCEALED DEADLY WEAPONS.—The Reese River *Reveille* denounces "the assassin-like practice of carrying concealed deadly weapons in towns and cities where law is maintained." It says:

"It is not an uncommon thing in this city for an infuriated savage to draw his revolver, cock it, and flourish it wildly in a saloon crowded with men, or to do the same things in the street, along which men, women, and children are walking every minute. It has happened more than once that bad, worthless men, between whom that kind of feud existed which ought to bring honest men their own, have drawn their pistols in the street and fell to shooting at each other like savages, escaping harm themselves but wounding and even killing innocent and good men. These acts of lawless savagery must be stopped, even if it takes a little free hemp to accomplish it."

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY.

CHRISTMAS.—This time honored anniversary has again rolled round, and with its advent what a host of joyful reminiscences crowd the mind. Christmas! The time of never-to-be-forgotten family re-unions and social gatherings. Many of the happiest recollections of our early years are associated with this great anniversary of the Christian world. Christmas is ever green; it never grows old, but as each succeeding year rolls round, each succeeding Christmas is looked to with as much eagerness as its predecessor. That dear old Santa Claus, who fills the stockings with *bon bons* and toys is ever welcomed eagerly by the youngsters, and at that season, in many portions of the earth, the members of families who may have been separated and divided by long distances, make it a point, if possible, to meet again with father and mother and participate in old time joys and pleasures. All hail to Christmas. We delight to honor it, and wish all, especially the readers of the News, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE MEAT MARKET.—The show of meat and poultry—beef, mutton, pork, turkeys, geese, ducks and fowl, both domestic and wild—in the meat market to-day, surpasses anything yet seen here, and would be very hard to surpass anywhere. It is almost invincible to particularize any where all are so excellent, but the snow of Little, Garrett & Chandler includes about ninety beeves, a bear, raised by Levi, and a buffalo. Mr. Jennings' display, as also that of Ornstien & Popper are first rate, and altogether, the display of meats of various kinds is enough to tempt the appetite of the most fastidious gourmands and epicures, and shows, that in stock raising, Utah is fast becoming second to no other place.

GRATIFYING NEWS FROM OAHU.—By letter from Elder Geo. Nebeker, at Oahu, Sandwich Islands, to President Young, we are highly gratified to learn that very encouraging success is at last crowning the efforts of the brethren on the sugar plantation of Lale, on the Island of Oahu. The letter dated December 6th, contained a small specimen of the sugar manufactured by them. It is brown sugar of the best quality, and worth by the sack here, about thirty cents per pound. The juice is clarified by steam, and the centrifugals or dryers are run from the same boilers. The juice is reduced in open pans. About twenty men, mostly natives, are employed, and with this force, about one ton of sugar and one hundred gallons of molasses were produced daily. *Ua pomakai lakou.*

DIED, in the 16th Ward, Salt Lake City, of heart disease, Harriet, wife of John T. R. Hicks. The deceased was born January 31, 1831, at Woolwich, England. The funeral services took place at the 16th Ward Schoolhouse to-day at one o'clock.

RETURNED.—Bro. George Alder, of the firm of Dunford & Sons, who left this city for the East, about eight weeks ago, returned last night, having visited Boston, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Chicago. Mr. Alder says all the Utah freight that has been lying at Omaha has been forwarded, and is now lying at Bryan, and he thinks that in the course of a week or ten days it will be forwarded to Evanston, the present terminus, which is on Yellow Creek, about seven or eight miles this side of Bear River. Bryan is collapsing, most of the business moving along to Evanston. Trains do not stop at Bear River city now, they have not even a switch there; they stop to coal some distance on the other side, and then run right along to Evanston. The roads are good between here and the terminus and quite an amount of freight may be expected to arrive here in a very few days. The firm of Dunford & Sons, through the exertions of Mr. Alder, are now in constant receipt of new goods from the eastern markets.

FROM BEAR RIVER.—From private correspondence we learn that a general railroad smash-up occurred half a mile east of Bear River city on the 21st inst., resulting in the total wreck of nine cars. No one injured. We also learn that Tom Smith, the leader of the late riot, has been sent to the Salt Lake Penitentiary. There is no snow at that point. Special mail agent, Ball, says he thinks no mail will be transferred at Echo City. Part of the material for the *Frontier Phoenix* is at Bryan City. The passenger trains are running to Evanston. Bear River city is very quiet as regards "civilization," but business is lively considering the amount of people left there.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—The Cheyenne Leader of the 19th inst., says, "This morning the passenger train from the west, ran into the rear of freight train No. 8, at Hazard Station. These cars were wrecked, the engineer, fireman and conductor of the passenger train, sustained some bruises and scratches, but nobody was killed. No one on the freight was injured at all."