

EDITORIALS.

THE statement having been made that Horace Greeley suffered greatly from sleeplessness, the Omaha Herald does not accept the statement, but argues that Mr. Greeley was a noted easy sleeper, that he slept readily by night or by day, at home or abroad, in church, lecture room, or railroad carriage.

Very likely at one time it was so, but it does appear that "tired nature's sweet restorer" was not so completely at the command of the great editor in his latter years. The anxieties of the late campaign and of the attendance on his sick and dying wife greatly diminished his facility of procuring sleep almost at will, as may have been the case in his fresher and more vigorous days, when his vitality was unimpaired by the strain and weariness of the anxieties that accumulated their intensity upon him more recently. Whitelaw Reid, present editor of the Tribune, makes the statement that Mr. Greeley, since his presidential tour, could scarcely secure an hour's good sleep in the twenty-four. The Rev. Mr. Talmage, in the Brooklyn Tabernacle, in a sermon in which he took occasion to comment upon the death of the venerable philosophic editor, made the following remarks—

Mr. Greeley told me ten days before his nomination at Cincinnati that he had not had a sound sleep in fifteen years! Brethren of literary toil, we had better slow up—put down brakes. You who are going with the express train, at sixty miles an hour, had better take the accommodation at thirty-five miles an hour. It is this night work that is killing our literary men. The brass heads of the coffin lid are made out of gaslight. First, the devil tries to stop the useful thinker by making him lazy; but, failing in that, he stands in the editor's room, or the artist's studio, or the minister's study, saying:—"Do four times the work you are doing; write two books this year; go out and deliver fifty lectures at \$200 a night." Men of intellectual toil, you are careful of the candle to keep it burning brightly; you had better begin to look after the candlestick.

If this was the case, his frequent sleeps during most of those fifteen years must have been but "cat sleeps," mere dozing, and his habit of sleeping anywhere was far less recuperative than a good, sound slumber of seven hours in the twenty-four, with the wakefulness of the lark during the remaining seven.

As it is, the sudden decease of Mr. Greeley in what might have been the full development of his powers and the flush of his physical and mental virility, is another serious warning to active and ambitious men. Man is a machine, capable of performing much, but liable to be overstrained and overworked, and the golden mean of moderation is necessary to prevent excess in labor, manual or mental, as well as to prevent excess in many other directions.

MR. FELL, a Mont Cenis engineer, has done some good things in England in the way of demonstrating the practical utility of narrow gauge railroads. He constructed a narrow gauge line with a ten inch track, to convey heavy iron ore traffic from mine to ordinary railroad. Subsequently, under contract with the government, he constructed a narrow gauge road of 18-inch track at the Aldershot military camp, the width of the line with double track being only ten feet. This road is considered entirely successful, a speed of 20 miles an hour being easily made upon it, 30 miles an hour being the maximum, which is sufficient for all ordinary purposes. This road, which is built upon posts, cost \$7,500 to \$10,000 per mile. So well is the government satisfied with it that narrow gauge roads will be constructed at other military posts and government establishments.

These narrow gauge roads are manifestly destined to play an important part in the future development of the mining and agricultural interests of this continent. If such roads are desirable in a small, densely populated country like England, much more so must they be in a country of magnificent distances, albeit of wonderful resources, like this. The cost of construction and working of a very light, narrow gauge road is comparatively trifling, while a vast amount of passengers and freight traffic can be carried upon it. In mountainous mining districts, and in sparsely settled agricultural regions,

roads of this economical description, but amply sufficient for all local traffic, would be great boons to the people, would help mightily to develop the resources of localities where more costly railroads can not be expected to be made, and would be highly conducive to the general welfare.

THE Washington correspondence of the New York Herald thus presents the unfinished business before the present session of Congress—

No last session of any Congress of late years has had such an unimportant mass of unfinished business before it. There are over three thousand pending bills, of which not as many hundreds are founded on legislative sense and season, not a hundred passable in any form, and not twenty, perhaps, essential to the well-being of the country. Many are private claims, which are oftener than not private steals or naked gratuities. A few are attempts under specious and misleading titles, to get some few thousand outlying acres of public lands here and there for the railroads that have grabbed all the rest in the localities. Some—such as the French Spoliation Claims—are founded on equity, but burdened with legal technicalities of great retarding force. There are bills to give bounties to slaves who were enlisted, instead of to the presumably loyal masters, who were paid in part till Congress put an estoppel on further payments at the instance of Secretary Stanton, and to enable discharged soldiers and sailors and orphans of the late war to acquire homesteads on special conditions of favor. Legislation granting pensions, bounties, rewards and privileges of various kinds for service in the late war is far from ended, and a reference to the statute books will show that hitherto such legislation has continued through the period between one war and another all the way down from the war of the Revolution to that with Mexico. In the line of monopoly and subsidy bills come the Postal Telegraph Company's bill of Mr. Palmer, of Iowa, the proposed ocean and Gulf steam lines and the construction of steam sloop-of-war at private yards. Opposed to these are such bills as those designed to reserve what is left of the public domain for actual settlers. Of a mixed character are the bills designed to use the means of the government to connect and improve the inland water routes, the immediate advocates having private interests mainly in view, and making the best use of the undeniable public benefits involved in the utilization of all possible means of water transportation as against the railroads. There are bills to codify and amend the coinage laws, to retire mutilated and worn bank notes and to have exemplary investigations into all steam boiler explosions. These will be followed by bills to assist in funding the remainder of the debt and to restore our foreign carrying trade. The most important of pending bills is that to establish reciprocity with Canada in the fisheries and canals, as provided in the Washington treaty. Mr. Haldeman's bill to cover the treeless prairies with a timber growth is in a situation to come up for action, but Congress is yet supine on the subject, and it will probably remain for some future legislator to harvest what he has sown. The bill to establish a territorial government for the late nomadic tribes, now concentrated on adjacent reservations, is likely to become a law. The Civil Rights bill, in some form or other, stands a good chance of going on the statute book, and will make but little noise abroad when it finally gets there. A sort of companion bill, extending the President's power of suspension of the Habeas Corpus act in Ku Klux haunted regions, will in all probability die of neglect in the present posture of Southern affairs. The initiatory movement toward relieving the Supreme Court Judges of their routine burden will be taken, but the measure will be handled deliberately, and cannot be looked upon as one of the coming laws of the third session of the Forty-second Congress. Some new members intend to signalize their entrance into Congressional life by presenting inchoate schemes of enactments, and others going out will buncombe a little with an eye to the time when a chance may come around for a return; but those who are good for another term certain, and for terms ahead in possibility, may be expected to follow a middle course, be sparing of new legislative projects and cautious about those already on the table.

Of the more important business of

the session, that which will receive considerable attention, the correspondent says the only point on which members seem to agree is that it will be impossible to dispose of it all the present session. It is proposed to amend the rules of the House with a view to facilitate legislation, and to change the rule giving conference committees unlimited power. Amendments to the civil code and the postal telegraph bill will be likely to consume the most time. Special claims under the Geneva award may be referred to the court of claims, and the award of the British claims commission must also be provided for. There are the various regular appropriation bills, and the sloop-of-war appropriation bill, with consideration of American sea commerce. To which may be added the thousand-and-one bills which various parties and partisans will be sure to want introduced, some of which may be so successful as to get into Congress and receive more or less consideration. At all events, and especially as this is a short session, Congress will not be short of work.

THE tremendous floods in Italy continue and the damage accomplished and threatened is very great. In England too and on the seas adjacent very unusual storms have been prevailing of late, and extensive devastation is reported. A good many remarkable things are happening about this time.

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON.—Cole introduced a bill providing that, after June 30, 1873, it shall be lawful to receive twenty per cent. of custom dues in United States notes, and twenty per cent. additional proportion each year thereafter, until 1877, when the duties may be paid either in gold or United States notes.

HOUSE.

Gallegas introduced a bill for the construction of a military road in New Mexico.

Banks introduced a bill to create a commission to award damages to claimants under the Geneva arbitration.

Hooper, Mass., introduced a bill appropriating twenty thousand dollars to the Fireman's Fund of Boston, as a reward for the services of the firemen whose exertion saved the safe of the sub-treasury at the recent great fire in Boston. After a long discussion the bill was referred to the committee on appropriations.

Acker moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill removing all political disabilities and extending general amnesty. Negatived, yeas 102, nays 84, less than the necessary two thirds.

The Speaker announced as a select committee on the centennial celebration: Kelly, Pa.; Dawes, Mass.; Maynard, Tenn.; Sargent, Cal.; Hawley, Conn.; Havens, Missouri; Cox, N. Y.; Marshall, Ills., and Hancock, Texas.

WASHINGTON, 10.—Bills were introduced and referred authorizing collectors to grant special orders for unloading steamships at night. Also establishing a new scale of fees and salaries of custom officers, repealing the bankruptcy act, repealing the special tax on retailers of leaf tobacco, repealing the enforcement act, abolishing the stamp duty on bank checks, and abolishing the special tax on leaf tobacco.

GENERAL.

CHICAGO, 9.—A Washington special of to-day says it is certain that Vice President Colfax has under consideration an offer from persons holding the controlling interest in the New York Tribune to accept the editorial position on that paper, after the 4th of March next. The persons making the offer expect an early answer, in order to make the announcement prior to the renewal of the January subscriptions to the weekly Tribune. Many prominent Republicans advise Colfax to accept.

BOSTON, 9.—The grand jury have indicted Leavitt Alley for the murder of Abijah Ellis, whose body was found, dismembered, floating in two barrels, in the Charles river.

WASHINGTON, 9.—Packard, U. S. Marshal of New Orleans, telegraphed to Attorney General Williams that the general assembly was returned by the legal board now organized at the State House. The Senate has, at present, twenty Republicans and eight Democrats, and the House fifty Republicans

and fourteen Democrats, about half of Warmouth's members participating. The State Supreme Court has sent Ellmore, Warmouth's usurping judge of the 8th District Court, to jail for ten days, and his clerk for five days, and find them \$50 each. All is quiet.

A Chicago politician, who has made an application for the Governorship of a Territory, has discovered that the President intends to adhere to his announced policy concerning Territorial officers and fill vacancies with inhabitants of the Territories. This is the civil service rule of the Territories.

Further accounts from the recent storm, on the northern lakes, show it to have been one of the most violent ever known. Not less than ten schooners are reported lost, with all on board.

NEW YORK, 9.—The city council has decided to proffer the hospitality of the city to Stanley.

A cable dispatch announces the sudden death, at Bremer, to-day, of Herman Peters, general manager of the North German Lloyd's Steamship Co.

A Washington special says the Duc de Nalles, French minister, has information, from France, that the present crisis will end peacefully. Thiers will be sustained after making some concession.

Another special says Secretary Delano sails for Cuba on Thursday next, he will be absent one or two months. It is hinted in a semi-official capacity, and at the suggestion of the President, who wishes thorough information as to the condition of the affairs of the Island, and expects to get it through the Secretary.

Wm. M. Evarts has been tendered a public dinner by Wm. C. Bryant and other prominent members of the Union League Club, in testimonial of his services before the Geneva tribunal. Evarts accepts the offer of the dinner itself as a sufficient testimonial, and declines the public festivity tendered.

Gen. Hancock will shortly take up his headquarters in this city, as commander of the military division of the Atlantic. General McDowell left for Louisville yesterday, where he is to have his headquarters.

CINCINNATI, 9.—The scaffold on a building being added to the water works fell this afternoon, killing four unknown persons, and wounding four others.

ST. LOUIS, 9.—The horse disease is assuming a more serious type.

NEW ORLEANS, 9.—The House adopted the following—

Resolved, That Henry C. Warmouth, Governor, be and is hereby impeached, for high crimes and misdemeanors in office, committed against the constitution and laws of the State.

The Senate then declared Warmouth suspended until such time as the charges can be tried and decided. At the evening session a court of impeachment was formed, and Pinchback was qualified as governor.

OMAHA, 9.—The first train will cross the Platte bridge to-morrow, connecting this city with the South Platte country.

JACKSONVILLE, Ogn., 9.—Mr. O'Donnell, Supt. of Indian Affairs, arrived here from Lake County last night. He reports the arrival in the Indian country of two companies of cavalry from Camp Warner. He says the aggregate force in the field, including some Klamath Indians, is about 250 men. The Indians are now being kept too busy by scouting parties to be able to commit any more depredations. He says within a week the campaign will be prosecuted so vigorously that but a short time can elapse before the hostile band of Modocs are taken and the war ended. His terms are unconditional surrender and punishment of the murderers.

NEW YORK, 10.—Henry N. Smith has resigned the presidency of the Hannibal and St. Joseph R. R., and E. S. Higgins has been appointed in his place. Jay Gould also resigns as director in the same road.

CHICAGO, 10.—Lotta the actress, is not dead, as reported. She writes she is in excellent health.

A Washington special says there is every probability that the senate finance committee will report favorably on the bill for the proposed abolition of the office of assessors of internal revenue.

The same special says: Sumner's one term resolution has been carried by reference to the Judiciary Committee, but that Banks in the house will press his proposition for amendment, which doubles the salaries of the president and vice president and extends the term of office to six years, and makes the president ineligible for a second term, these officers to be elected by electors qualified to vote in the election of representatives to Congress, in a manner to be hereafter pointed out.