

THE PRESS.

TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 17.

We do not read anonymous letters and communications. The names and addresses of the writers are in all cases indispensable, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return or preserve communications that are not used.

St. John is trying to revive its ancient trade with the West Indies. Some of the merchants of the city have clubbed together, chartered a vessel, loaded her with such articles as they think there is a demand for in the West India Islands and started her on her way, "amid festive speeches and flowing champagne." The St. John Globe thinks it will be impossible to build up a "large business," but, it adds, "if three or four schooners can be sent out each year and make profitable returns, the gain will be something."

Senator Voorhees, who suddenly blossomed out as the leader of the free trade policy which Mr. Cleveland proposed under cover of most earnest protestations that the administration did not favor free trade, is confronted by a speech delivered in Alabama, a little over six years ago in which he took pronounced stand in favor of the perpetuation of the tariff. Therefore the Western papers are comparing him to a weathercock, and have substituted for the nickname, Tail Sycamore of the Wabash, the less lofty title of Tilt Rooster of the Wabash.

The grand jury that has been investigating the recent election at Jackson, Miss., report that it was entirely free from tampering or fraud. The jury express regret that the requirements of their oath hamper them in particularizing the extent of their inquiries. This is the case that Senator Chamberlain has brought to the attention of the Senate. The performances of Mississippi grand juries in the past have not been such as to inspire public confidence that their findings in this case are truthful or that they have investigated the charges with any other purpose than to whitewash the culprits.

The Canadian people in cash and lands have paid to the Canadian Pacific railway company \$12,000,000 for the right of way, construction, equipment and the handling of its lands was \$80,000,000. The company has received, therefore, from the people \$92,000,000 above all its expenditures. It is likely to get another big sum out of the government for the surrender of its monopoly in the Northwest, which Sir John Macdonald has apparently concluded to buy as the only way of quelling the rebellious province of Manitoba. Canada's experience in railroad building very closely resembles ours.

The Democratic machine was beaten in Louisiana and Nichols is the nominee for Governor. The contest, which caused so many deaths during the preliminary canvass, seems to have become very pacific in the halls of convention. Nichols had 260 votes, and Governor McEnery none, as his supporters cast blank ballots. The McEnery men then moved to make the nomination unanimous. This looks as though the Democratic factions of Louisiana had determined to shake hands over the bloody campaign, and perpetuate their rule in the future as they have in the past. Nichols has in the past gained a reputation for quite liberal views, especially as to the treatment of the negroes in their political relations. As Governor he will have an opportunity to show whether the belt that he led was really a step towards liberalism.

The Mormons have by means abandoned their efforts to get Utah admitted into the Union as a State. The cause of the constitution forbidding polygamy, which was recently adopted, not having had the desired effect of hoodwinking the country into the notion that the Mormons had reformed, they have now introduced an act into the territorial Legislature punishing bigamy and polygamy. There is little doubt that it will pass. But as long as polygamy remains the chief corner stone of the Mormon creed, the act is not likely to believe that the country will be enforced after the territory got into the Union and the coercive power of the National government was withdrawn. When the church ceases to sanction plural marriage the country may begin to believe that the Mormons are on the road to conversion, but even after that Congress will be likely to insist that they undergo a long period of probation before they are allowed to govern Utah.

The growth of the temperance sentiment in Missouri is something quite remarkable, especially considering the reputation of the State for a backwardness in instituting reforms that can hardly be described by the word conservatism. The Prohibition, or Third Party, is probably no stronger, if as strong, than in 1884, when it took a little more than ten thousand votes for its candidate, Governor. But there has been a gain on the side of temperance reform, quite outside of the political field. Since last June elections under the provisions of the Wood local option law have been held in sixteen cities and sixty-two counties of Missouri. In fifty of these elections have resulted in majorities against the licensing of the liquor traffic, and twenty-seven the other way. In these elections 153,180 votes were polled, of which 78,317, or a majority of 3,854, were against the sale of liquor. As in Georgia and other Southern States politics have not been brought into these local option elections. The votes mark exactly the state of public sentiment.

A rumor that the Dominion government is going to ask for an increase of the appropriations for fortifications, and for the purchase of the basis of an article in the Halifax Chronicle, showing the great increase of the cost of the militia service of Canada for the last eight years. The figures are certainly surprising. In 1870-80 the Dominion's total expenditure for defense and the militia was only \$200,000. In 1887-88 it was \$1,222,000 or almost double. This additional sum is not explained by the expense of putting down the Northwest rebellion. That is all extra and is not included in these figures. In the meantime the expense of taking care of the Northwest Indians has increased in a very great ratio. It was \$600,000 in 1870-80, and \$1,751,888 in 1887-88. And notwithstanding these great increases the militia, according to the Halifax Chronicle, are not more efficient or better drilled than ten years ago. Most of the added expenditure is for military schools, larger staff of paid officials, and general style in the management of the department—in other words, for fuss and feathers.

Anthracite Coal.
The suddenness with which an advance in the price of fuel has been wont to follow a strike in the "coal regions" has made those "regions" appear to the honest household who puts out buying his coal until winter, the abodes of unpeppable returns. Just where the coal mines are, and how it happens that the output is so susceptible to the influence of strikes, few have taken the pains to investigate. The anthracite, or hard coal, so generally used in New England, is a Pennsylvania product; a relatively small Pennsylvania product that, although the market is free, without tariffs to keep down foreign competition, Pennsylvania enjoys a practical monopoly of the market of New England, the Middle States and even in the far West country. The trade is practically in the hands of a few companies, (you may almost count them on your fingers) which operate in three regions: the Allegheny, the Pennsylvania and the Wyoming. These regions are the Schuylkill, the Lehigh and the Wyoming. The list of the principal companies, with their productions in three kinds of anthracite for 1887, shows the source and the measure of the most comfort-producing material of the north:

Reading Railroad	8,690,784
Shuylkill	1,364,214
Lehigh Valley	1,364,214
Central R. of N. J.	1,364,214
S. H. & W. Branch P. R. R.	1,364,214
Total	13,943,612
Lehigh Valley	8,690,784
Central R. of N. J.	1,364,214
S. H. & W. Branch P. R. R.	1,364,214
Total	11,419,212
Del. & Hudson Canal Co.	4,071,291
Del. Lack. & Western R. R.	1,591,129
Lehigh Valley Coal Co.	1,591,129
Central R. of N. J.	1,591,129
Total	8,064,439

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EDUCATIONAL.
PORTLAND SOCIETY OF ART. DRAWING SCHOOL.
Will commence Dec. 1, 1887, and continue five months. F. W. Benson, of Boston. (Late of F. W. Benson, Instructor and Critic.)
Total.....\$34,907,407
It will be observed that the total output of the anthracite regions is in round numbers, thirty-five million tons. Of these, as computation will show, nearly thirty-three million tons were produced by seven companies, in the West Virginia, the Lehigh Valley, the Central New Jersey, the Delaware & Hudson Canal, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, the Pennsylvania Coal and the Pennsylvania Railroad companies. These seven companies produce nearly the entire output of anthracite. Their directors are the "coal barons."

CURRENT COMMENT.

UNPROFITABLE CHANGE.
(Boston Traveler.)
Selling out civil service reform to invest in free trade has not proved a paying business for this administration.

REVENUE FACT.
(Detroit Tribune.)
It worries free trade organs terribly to see

