

The counsel in the star route cases at Washington have begun to sum up—and such a beginning—a speech lasting six days! Half a dozen speakers are to follow, and a conclusion will not be reached much before the first of June.

Divorce in New Hampshire goes on to the extent of one nullification to every 10 marriages. In 1882 there were 314 divorces, a little more than one-fourth being for the Scriptural reason.

Seven hundred English recruits to Mormonism arrived in Utah in one day last week and the sect progresses with greater rapidity than ever. Perhaps the little savor of persecution has attracted many to its fold.

At various points along the Union Pacific railroad where the only way to secure good water has been to haul it on the cars, artesian wells have been sunk and the problem easily solved.

The fact that hundreds of skillful inventors are at work upon various developments of the electric force, justifies the prediction often made, that we have only begun to see what electricity will do for us.

Strange as it may seem, the kingdom of Italy is ahead of all other nations in the way of invaluable war ships. The Lepanto, which was launched the other day is the first of the four new war-ships built by the Italians and designed to be the most powerful ship belonging to any navy.

If we compare this vessel with the Inflexible, the most powerful vessel of the British Navy, we find that the latter is in every respect inferior to her. The Inflexible carries, as her whole armament, four 80 tons guns in two turrets, protected by 24 inches of armor.

Dissatisfied Toronto Orangemen have decided to form a third or Protestant party. The chief planks of their platform will be the abolition of separate schools and use of the French language in parliament.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

GOSSIP FROM WASHINGTON.

In the supreme court recently, a decision was rendered in the patent case of Robert L. Downton, applicant, against the Yeager Milling company, which involves the question of the validity of a patent on what is known as the process for making flour by crushing the grain between rollers.

The following officers now attached to the signal corps will be relieved from duty in Washington July 1 and ordered to join their regiments: Maj. James W. Powell, captain Sixth infantry; Col. William H. Clapp, captain Sixteenth infantry; Capt. S. M. Mills, Fifth artillery, and Lieut. Richard P. Strong Fourth artillery.

The commissioner of pensions is disposing of pension cases at the rate of 300 to 400 per day. A new step will shortly be taken, which will have the effect to close up a large class of these cases.

Postoffices established—Detroit: Detroit, Brown county; LaSoo, Fankle county; Parktown, Pembina county; Plainfield, Brule county; Protection, Aurora county; Riley, Reddle county; Iowa: Ladolla, Taylor county; Mallard, Palo Alto county; Wisconsin: Hedgehog, Door county.

The treasury department will decide whether imported tea can be colored to suit the American taste. Coloring may be adulteration; it is often a cloak for it.

The president has appointed the following postmasters: John Saunders at Mexico, Mo., and Henry S. Brown at Sibley, Iowa.

The controller of currency has authorized the National German-American bank of St. Paul, capital, \$2,000,000, to begin business.

RAILROAD RUMBLINGS.

New and amended articles of incorporation of the Western Railroad company have been filed with the Minnesota secretary of state. Article 1 changes the name to that of St. Paul & Northern Pacific railway company.

The Lake Superior & Northwestern Railway company was organized at Duluth the 7th inst. The main line is to run from Duluth, in a northwesterly direction, to a point on the Red river at or near the mouth of the Red Lake river, and the branches are as follows: First, from a point on the line west of the Mississippi river to the northern boundary of the State, between Rainy river or lake and Red lake; second, from the same point on the Mississippi river to Brainerd; third, from Duluth, via Vermilion, to the northern boundary of the State; fourth, from Duluth, in a northerly direction, along the north shore to Pigeon river. The corporation is to begin its life on the 10th of this month.

Freight train No. 17, west-bound on the river division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad ran off the switch at Lamolite at 1 o'clock Tuesday morning, piling a number of freight cars in a wreck. The engineer, M. Ferguson, is missing. He is supposed to have jumped into the river and was drowned, as his cap was found near the edge of the water. A brakeman jumped on the other side and saved himself.

Advices from the end of the Canadian Pacific track, dated April 30, state that track laying on that line was commenced April 18, with J. H. Benson in charge. They are laying two and a half miles of track per day, and Mr. Benson says he will lay five miles per day as soon as the graders get far enough ahead to keep out of his way.

The St. Paul & Duluth road received 19,184,305 pounds of freight at Duluth during April, and forwarded 13,817,300 tons. Tariffs for receipts amounted to \$32,444, and for shipments, \$32,589. Of the receipts, 8,631,150 pounds were wheat and corn.

The Canadian Pacific railway re-elected the old board of directors for the current year, with the exception of J. J. Hill, who has retired. Rudolph V. Martinson of Amsterdam and New York, and W. T. Scott of Ottawa were substituted.

The Manitoba folks propose to have the western extension of their road from Bartlett to Devil's Lake completed in time to have a big excursion from there to Devil's Lake on July 4.

The gross earnings of the Northwestern railway for the first week in May were \$417,000, a decrease of 4,100. St. Paul & Omaha, \$100,400, an increase of \$15,000.

Florida built 250 miles of railroad last year.

GENERAL NEWS GOSSIP.

E. V. Terrell, a well known savant of Oberlin, Ohio, is making wonderful discoveries of fossil fishes along the lake shore in Loraine county. Among the remains found, almost perfect, is a dorsal plate twenty-four by twenty-six inches, and a cranium fourteen and one-half by twenty-three inches. The length of the fish could not have been less than twenty-nine feet.

The supreme lodge, Knights of Honor, has been in session at Galveston, Tex.,

with a large number of representatives present. The order numbers 130,000 members, and has collected and disbursed among the widows and orphans of deceased members, in accordance with its endowment plan, nearly \$9,000,000.

One of the largest New York dealers in bull-frog's legs has set 100 expert frog-catchers at work on the New England states, and estimates that the demand this summer will be double that of last year.

Gov. Cleveland has signed the bill which provides that boards of supervisors in counties of New York state shall provide for the burial of deceased soldiers, sailors or marines, and shall also provide appropriate headstones. This act will prevent the burial in the future of any soldiers in pauper graves.

Chicago's April mortality report shows 922 deaths, and an annual rate of 19.73. The number of the deceased under five years of age was 460, and only 20 had seen eighty years. Consumption and acute lung diseases caused 234 deaths. There were 29 fatalities and 17 suicides.

Two more of the old Minnesota state railroad bonds were presented to the state auditor for redemption Thursday. They belonged to Ellen S. Cromwell, and she received \$3,504.84 cents in cash for them.

G. N. Decker furnishes a basis of fact for the biggest fish story of the season. He speared a sturgeon in the Red river at Fergus Falls weighing 180 pounds and measuring 6 feet 3 inches in length.

The New York grand jury has recommended the removal of Police Captains Williams and Allaire for dereliction of duty, in not enforcing the gambling and excise laws.

The San Francisco steamer Coptic, for China, carried away 103 Chinaman possessing return certificates. The total number of return certificates issued up to date is 6,695.

A young nun in Hochslag convent, Montreal, who appealed to the pope to be released from her vows; has had her prayer granted and returned to her family.

Natalia Moeller, aged forty-five, has been awarded \$1,000 damages by a jury at Oregon, Ill., against David Bohner, aged sixty, for breach of promise.

The Ohio Central coal dock at Duluth is nearly completed. The company intends to ship in 250,000 tons this summer.

The discovery of an extensive seam of bituminous coal within ten miles of Victoria, B. C., is announced.

Myra Clark Gaines has a judgment for over \$1,000,000 for rent of a portion of New Orleans since 1836.

Official reports show that 85 per cent. of the acreage of Minnesota in 1882 was already sown April 30.

East Tawas, Mich., saloon keepers must give \$6,000 bonds, but will not.

Jacksonville, Fla., counts up 44,167 tourists during the past season.

Half of the wheat in the northern part of Ohio is being plowed under.

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

An officer of Avoca, Pottawattamie county, arrived at Des Moines, Iowa, recently in charge of two men, giving their names as John Woods and John Burns, arrested on suspicion of being the murderers of Conductor Sears, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railway, near Russell. Sears sought to eject two men from a train and was shot through the body, dying April 29. The arrested parties are cigar makers, and Woods says he has worked at Topeka.

The excitement over the treatment of Mrs. J. M. Hill by the Huron street (Cleveland) hospital is intense. She was the wife of the ex-ire chief, who deserted her ten years ago, when she was stricken with one rot. She had a leg amputated, and was covered with sores. The hospital took her in charge, but when her funds were giving out told her to go.

During mass at Cecilia's Catholic church, Brooklyn, N. Y., on the 5th inst., Mrs. Daniel Cronin arose and accused the pastor, the Rev. Florence McCarthy, of improper conduct toward her daughter. A scene ensued, in which Mr. Cronin took a prominent part. Father McCarthy brought an action for libel against Cronin, claiming \$20,000 damages.

Col. Thomas Reynolds of Madison Wis., paid recently \$6,761.22 to the United States district attorney, being the amount obtained by him from the government by means of forged pension vouchers, with interest and costs. All criminal prosecution now stops.

At Salido, Tex. two Mexicans killed themselves with the same knife. One stabbed the other in the region of the heart, leaving the knife sticking in the wound. The other quickly drew the knife from his own breast and stabbed his antagonist.

At Woburn, Mass., John Callahan bought a gallon of liquor and went on a spree. He had a three-year-old child with him and forced him to drink all he could, and then threw liquor in his face. The child went into convulsions and died.

The preliminary trial of Hon. Phil B. Thompson for killing Walter H. Davis began at Harrodsburg, Ky., Tuesday. Hon. D. W. Voorhees of Indiana and Hon. J. S. C. Blackburn appear as counsel for Thompson.

Patrick and William Flinn, father and son, quarreled in their home at Long Island City. The father broke away from his son, and seizing an ax, crushed his skull.

Two thieves who stole \$75,000 worth of diamonds in Paris were caught in New York recently.

RECORD OF CASUALTIES.

The store and dwelling of Richard Davis at Long Plain, Mass., burned recently with most of the contents. Loss on building, \$4,300. The stock was valued at \$35,000, and insured for \$16,000.

Recent heavy rains caused the Connecticut river to rise rapidly, which enabled the Connecticut river Lumber company to start their drive of 40,000,000 feet of logs.

At Newago, Mich., lately Brooks' hotel, the Exchange hotel, two churches, and fourteen other buildings were burned. Loss, about \$60,000.

The drug and flour mills of S. A. Fowle,

at Arlington, Mass., were nearly destroyed by fire Sunday morning. Loss, \$25,000; insurance, \$15,000.

Superior, Wis., loses the Hotel Roy by fire. The loss is \$30,000.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Among the passengers on the steamer Alaska, from Liverpool, recently were Moody and Sankey, the revivalists, and Mr. William Hind Smith, general secretary of the Young Men's Christian association, Exeter hall, London. Moody and Sankey have enjoyed unusually good health. They will return to England next October for a final campaign of eight months.

Chepeta, widow of the Chief Ouzay, has married a Ute named Toomuchgelt, who is a friend of the whites. She has cast off the silk dress she wore at Washington, and returned to buckskin leggings and a United States blanket.

Titian Peale, a brother of Rembrandt Peale, and one of Long's expedition to the Rocky mountains, is still living in Philadelphia, at the age of eighty-five.

Dr. Mark Hopkins, in a recent lecture at Princeton, declared evolution not only atheistic, but insufficient to explain the origin of the human race.

Mrs. Albert Maddick, who has made her appearance at the Society theater, London is said to be the living image of the late Adelaide Neilson.

Mr. Stephen Knight, secretary and treasurer of the Argyle mining company, Manitoba, dropped dead in Fort Rough.

George William Curtis has been re-elected president of the New York Civil Service Reform association.

FOREIGN NEWS NOTES.

At Winnipeg, Alf Livingstone, manager of a temperance colonization scheme has been charged by a servant girl named Belle Walsh with seduction, assault, and non-payment of wages, and a writ has been issued. Livingstone alleges that it is a case of blackmail, but the girl says he furnished rooms over his office and visited her regularly, agreeing to pay her \$20 a week. A few days ago he assaulted her, she says, threatened her with an uplifted ax and ejected her. Strong efforts are being made to keep the affair from the public.

London cable: Authoritative information from the foreign office says the state department of Washington, without any solicitation on the part of the English government, expressed a willingness to test by state or national law the possibility of bringing charges of conspiracy against some of the dynamite plotters. The test case will probably be brought in New York. It is the opinion of our own foreign office that anything like a formal demand at present would be likely to hamper the executive departments at Washington.

The prince of Wales formally opened a school of music at Kensington on the 7th. In his address he announced that Sullivan, the composer, and Grove, the editor and writer, had been knighted. He also stated that George A. McFaren, music doctor, had been created a knight. The duke and duchess of Edinburgh and Gladstone were present at the ceremony.

The tax bill, recently made out to the pope by the authorities, bore the usual legal descriptive form: "To Citizen Joachim Pecci; by trade or profession, Pope; conducting business at the Vatican Palace, Rome." The taxes were duly paid, and the receipt made out "Citizen Joachim Pecci."

Arrangements are rapidly proceeding in London for opening the Universal fisheries exhibition. The American department has obtained 1,200 additional feet space from Denmark. A prominent feature of the American department will be 500 crayon drawings, illustrating the whole process of fish culture.

Lord Torrington's known in the London clubs as "John Brown the second," because at the funeral of the gillie the queen, overcome with emotion, put her hand kindly on Lord Torrington's shoulder, and, to the unspeakable disgust of that peer observed: "You are now my oldest personal attendant."

The New Frie Presse, Fremend Blatte and Deutsche Zeitung of Vienna are confiscated for reporting a meeting held to support the attitude of the Liberals in the debate in the reichstag on the education bill.

Lords Wolsley and Alcester and Admiral Seymour will be given a lump sum of money instead of a pension. This change of course is due to popular outcry against entailed pensions.

Cathni Bey, the Jewish millionaire, died recently in Cairo, aged seventy-three. His property is estimated at over \$25,000,000. He had two wives and a numerous progeny.

Remorg, an Antwerp corn dealer, has failed for \$300,000. A lady, whose husband is ruined by the failure has suicided.

The corporation of Montreal voted 2 to 1 against allowing female taxpayers to vote. An effort is to be made to prorogue the Dominion parliament on the 17th inst.

The greater part of Konigshoff, Bohemia, has been destroyed by fire.

Burning of a Vast Amount of Oil at Jersey City.

The works of the standard Oil company the most extensive in this country, were nearly destroyed by fire last Thursday morning. One of the large tanks was struck and exploded by lightning. The burning oil poured out like an angry river, and flowed down the avenues between the rows of enormous tanks towards the river. In a short time the flames communicated with three huge tanks, and they all exploded simultaneously with terrific force. Fragments of iron were hurled a distance of half a mile. The burning oil was scattered in all directions. The entire fire department were summoned, but their services were almost useless, as burning streams of oil poured through the yard, firing tank after tank on the east side, and licking up the buildings. The storehouse, a solid structure where barreled oil was kept, was attacked by the flames and burned. The engine house went next, and oil and water pump houses, the sunken tank and machine shop quickly followed, and the whole easterly side of the works became a seething mass of flames. Despite the tremendous heat and blinding smoke, the firemen worked valiantly in the hopes of checking the progress of the flames, but it appeared at one time that the east works would be destroyed, and it was feared the flames would reach out and consume other property in the neighborhood. People deserted their homes and moved out

their effects. It is estimated there were 500,000 gallons of oil in the tanks, and the loss of property will reach over \$1,500,000. The following members of the fire department are missing, supposed to be lost in the flames: John Herbert, superintendent; Joseph Jenkins, foreman; George Davis, engineer; Henry Kegler, laborer; Dick Corlkin, laborer; William Curry, boiler maker.

GRANGER LAWS SUSTAINED.

The Supreme Court of the United States Decides a Very Important Case and Gives the Railroads a Severe Knockdown.

WASHINGTON, Special Telegram, May 7.—The supreme court to-day decided the case of The State of Illinois vs. The Illinois Central and The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy roads. Seldom have railroads received such a knock-down blow from the courts. The chief justice delivered the opinion in each case but was unanimous and sustained the granger laws to their fullest extent. It was decided that the legislature has the power in all cases to regulate both freight and passenger charges without reference to the road's charter.

The case arises out of the facts below set forth:

On the 18th of March, 1873, Morgan A. Lewis, a passenger on a train of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, tendered Neal Burgess, a conductor of that company, 18 cents as fare for his transportation from Buda to Neponset, a distance of six miles. This was a maximum rate of 3 cents per mile, as prescribed by the statute of Illinois then in force. The conductor demanded 20 cents, which was the fare fixed by the railroad company. Lewis refused to pay more than eighteen, and the conductor thereupon attempted to eject him from the cars. For this act the conductor was prosecuted before a justice of the peace upon the charge of assault and battery and fined \$10 and costs. The case was then carried up through the State courts by successive appeals, the railroad company sustaining the conductor and raising the question of the right of the State to interfere with its business by fixing a rate of fare and transportation. A decision was rendered in favor of the State by its highest court in the railroad company thereupon appealed to the supreme court of the United States upon the ground that the act of the general assembly of Illinois of April 15 and 17 fixing the maximum rate of charges for the transportation of passengers on the railroad in the State was unconstitutional and void because it implied an obligation of the contract contained in the charters of the various companies, which were merged into the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad company by the consolidation. This court holds:

First—That the grants of immunity from legitimate governmental contract are never to be presumed on. On the contrary, the presumptions are all the other way, and unless the exemption is clearly established, the State is free to act on all subjects within its general jurisdiction as the public interests may seem to require. A State may limit the amount of charges by the railroad companies for fares and freights unless restrained by some contract in the charter. 2. That in the present case there is no such restraint. The State, it is true, has given the board of directors of the railroad company the power to establish rates of toll for conveyance of persons and property as they shall from time to time by their by-laws determine. But such by-laws must not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of the State. If the State had not legislative power to regulate charges of carriers for hire the case would be different, but that question has been settled and amended, and the charter under which this company secured from the legislature must be construed in light of that established power. The judgment of the supreme court of Illinois is affirmed with costs. Opinion by Chief Justice Waite. Justice Harlan concurs in judgment, but not in opinion. Justice Blatchford did not sit in case a decision was also rendered by court, in case of Illinois Central Railroad company, in error, against people of the State of Illinois, who presented precisely the same questions which were presented in the preceding case, for reasons given by the court in its opinion in that case. Judgment of the supreme court of Illinois is affirmed.

The Defaulting Army Paymaster.

San Antonio, Tex., Special: Paymaster Wasson is still confined and under guard. His examination before Commissioner Paschal will take place on the 16th inst. Wasson maintained his entire innocence until the development of his defalcation of \$5,000 was made known to him. This defalcation dates several weeks back, and the money is supposed to have been lost at poker. When told that he was already a defaulter Wasson caved completely and told Gen. Anger his entire secret of the \$24,000 robbery, admitting that he left the money at Jacksonville. The detection of Wasson's rascality and his arrest are entirely due to the efforts of Chief Paymaster Col. Terrell, whom it causes great pain, as Wasson was his special friend. Wasson has a petition before congress for two years leave of absence to visit his wife in Japan, where he has been promised a very high position; and being a man of small means, it is supposed that his purpose in stealing was to raise funds necessary to work through his projects.

A Bad Paymaster From Iowa.

Washington Special: No definite information has yet been received at the war department regarding the defalcation of Paymaster James R. Wasson, in Texas. It is supposed that the shortage in his accounts will amount to \$5,500, as shown by Col. Ferrell's examination and Wasson's confession. He has been placed under arrest, but no court marshal will be ordered until the department is fully and officially informed of all the circumstances. He was appointed from Iowa and commissioned paymaster, with the rank of major Sept. 14, 1876. He was, at the close of the war, a private in Company A, Thirty-fourth Iowa cavalry. His bondsmen live in Iowa.

Senator Fair Makes a Fair Defense.

Senator Fair in conversation with a press representative regretted bitterly and keenly the notoriety given matters so exclusively concerning himself and wife. He said: I am the man, and I am willing to bear all the odium which the public, in ignorance of the real facts, may choose to cast upon me; but my regret is for my wife, whose name should be associated and incorporated in dispatches transmitted all over the country. Now, as always, my desire has been to do that which would contribute to the happiness of my wife and children. If my wife thinks separation would contribute to her further happiness, then her mind and mine are a like. I have done nothing to merit the obliquity cast upon me. God has blessed me with wealth, never used it for a blessed purpose. My heart and hand have always been open to those in distress, and will continue to be to those who seek or require my help. I will shield my wife's name by every means in my power."

Campbell & Smith, the heavy dry-goods men of Duluth, have told out to J. Fremont, of Tonawanda, Pa.