Birmingham Eccentric.

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BIRMINGHAM — MICHIGAN.

TIMELY TOPICS.

THE Caroline islands, about which Spain is quarreling with Germany are one of the most numerous groups in the Indian ocean. They are mostly very small, and the largest is only seventy four miles in circumference. They are fertile and produce great quantities of fruit. As a rule, one of them is barely large enough to make a single farm for an American. The climate is mild. The inhabitants are Malays. The group was discovered in 1543 by Lopes de Vellalobos, a Spanish adventurer, and this fa t constitutes Spain's sole claim to the islands. From that day to this Spain has never established a colony there, or even set up a trade, bu has left the islands wholly to the natives. Some twenty or more years ago, th Germans began to trade with the islands Since then, German settlers have established themselves on several of the islands. Small German vessels now regularly visit the islands for trading purposes. Some years ago England united with Germany in holding that Spain had no valid title. It is only now when Germany seeks to take formal possession, in order to legitimatize and protect the German settlers and traders, that Spain has suddenly waked up to renew her ancient claim. As a matter of fact, and also of equity, neither Spain nor Germany has any legitimate title. The Spanish right of sight of discovery has long lapsed by disuse. The German claim rests only on the fact that a few German traders with the natives have settled there. It would, however, be better for the world to have the German claim to succeed, if either of the two, because Germany will settle and cultivate the islands, govern them wisely, and make them of use to civilized mankind.

The Commissioners of Emigration at New York have referred a case to the Treasury Department which raises an interesting point in regard to the immigration of paupers. A party of about sixty destitute paupers recently arrived at New York on the steamship Bateau Ecrouille. An examination showed that they were paupers likely to become a public charge within the meaning of the Lauer Immigrant act, and they were put back on the steamship to be returned to the country whence they came. The Commissioners have since been informed that about fifty paupers belonging to the above party, have recently crossed the Canadian border line into Vermont and are now making their way south. It is supposed they were landed at Halifax or were transferred at sea to another vessel bound to that port. The facts were reported at the Treasury Department and instructions requested. The officers to whom the case was referred Mr. Lyman, chief of the Navigation Division—say that nothing can be done in the premises. The Pauper Immigrant act, he explains, prohibits the landing of all pauper immigrants who may be brought to this country in a ship or vessel, but is silent on the subject of such as may enter the country by land. The subject will be reported to congress at its next meeting, with a view of securing legislation to meet such cases as the one in question

THE Brantford Canada Expositor voices the sentiment of the United States when it says, regarding the salvation army scheme of sending tailor women of London over to England. The Canadian authorities ought to let the newcomers thoroughly understand that this is no Botany Bay, and that the people decidedly object to Canada being made a dumping place for the filth of the world. We donbt not the British poor law authorities will be only too glad to have the fallen women dependent on them for support shipped out of the country. But if they think there is any demand for such a class they are mightily mistaken. And the government at Ottawa Charles Tupper merit the heartiest condemnation of the toilers of this country, for assuring the people of Great Britain that Canada is ready to welcome and provide food and clothing for 100,000 British waifs.

THE Salvation army in Eng and is making an effort to raise $100,000 to rescue fallen women, and assist them to emigrate to the United States and Canada. Mr. Samuel Morley, member of Parliament for Bristol, has subscribed $10,000. Three other gentlemen have subscribed $5,000 each, and $35,000 was raised in one meeting in London. To the British mind this may look like noble charity, but we do not so regard it. We have no use for this class of immigrants, and our authorities should at once take steps to avert this contemplated imposition upon us, and teach England that she must seek other places for the disposal of her paupers and prostitutes.

THE illness and long suffering of Gen. Grant from cancer has awakened more or less comment about the disease, and Dr. Nagle of the bureau of vital statistics in New York has been collecting figures to show the number of cases in that city during the last decade with the following result: 1870, 416; 1876, 459; 1877, 485; 1878, 572; 1879, 572; 1880, 658; 1881, 706; 1882, 732; 1883, 678; 1884, 725. These figures show that in the last ten years the increase of cases has been nearly 100 per cent. The cause for the increase is the part of the problem which medical scientists should set themselves at work to find out.

A QUARTER of a century ago Maine was still the Pine Tree State and Bangor the chief lumber port in the country. To-day the Michigan lumberman ships plus by rail to Lewiston and Auburn, not 75 miles from Bangor.

You must give a month's notice before publishing a book in Japan. This gives the reading public a chance to barricade their doors against the publication of a book.

In the early part of this month a Salina county, Nebraska, woman closed her dead husband's eyes in death, buried him on Wednesday, and married his successor on Friday.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, but as an evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. We do not wish to be held responsible for particularly careful about giving names and addresses to the editor. Letters intended for publication are often addressed to the business manager of the paper, which only causes delay.

AROUND A GREAT STATE.

Influence of Michigan's Institutions.

Recently we stated that Supt. Foster had gone to Minnesota to give the Commissioners, appointed by the legislature, a plan for a State school in that state on the same plan as our own, the benefit of the experience which Michigan had had in establishing such a school. Saying Sun gives a very full report of his visit and the suggestions he made relative to the school here; which Mr. Foster had previously stated, elsewhere. The Commissioners were much pleased with Mr. Foster's statements and the information which he gave them and acted upon. They endorsed the plan of the school, otherwise expressed their gratification in every possible manner. Mr. Foster left with them the plans and photographs of the buildings both of the outside and inside besides much suggestive information, and at the time left the impression a known to them. In a letter to Mr. Herbert of the Minneapolis Tribune, Mr. Foster emphasized the policy of making the School a home for the children rather than a prison as the sun quoted quite at length in support of this policy from the pamphlet in which occurs the following paragraph:

"This institution should clothe, feed and train mentally and physically as well as school the child was an inmate of it. It was not to be a great industrial institution where all the children are taught, but simply a home, as nearly as it could be made, while the child is being taught such knowledge as will best fit it for a home among the citizens of a prosperous state."

The Sun speaks in the highest terms of the state school located in Coldwater, and says that Dr. Foster's address with the kindly and advice was "worth thousands of dollars to the state." The Sun says that there are twenty children in the poor houses of Minnesota, but that a great many are sent to the reformatories and jails of the state. Such should never be stamped the name of criminal. It is our duty to save them, and the state of Michigan have found their way to the reform school. to stamp a child of that age as criminal is simply cruelty. The school will be opened with the course for any such children. Since the visit of Mr. Foster some of the Minnesota commissioners and the architect have visited the school here.—*Coldwater Republican.*

Decreased Shipments.

The saw-mill strike has affected the August shipments of forest products from the ports of this city to a great extent. From port to the output for the month of August has been as follows:

Escanaba	2,250,000	
Menominee	2,000,000	
Marinette	1,500,000	
Green Bay	1,000,000	
Oconto	1,000,000	
Chicago	1,500,000	
Manistique	1,000,000	
Manistee	1,000,000	
Muskegon	1,500,000	
Total	15,750,000	
Total shipments for August, 1884	9,230,000	
Decrease	6,520,000	
Escanaba	4,000,000	
Menominee	1,500,000	
Marinette	1,000,000	
Green Bay	500,000	
Oconto	1,000,000	
Chicago	500,000	
Manistique	1,000,000	
Manistee	1,000,000	
Muskegon	1,500,000	
Total	13,000,000	
Total shipments for August, 1885	6,750,000	
Decrease	6,250,000	

The following table shows the shipments of lumber from each port for the months of August, 1884 and 1885:

	1884.	1885.
Escanaba	55,000,000	50,750,000
Menominee	30,000,000	28,000,000
Marinette	30,000,000	27,000,000
Green Bay	4,250,000	1,500,000
Oconto	30,000,000	27,000,000
Chicago	4,000,000	2,000,000
Manistique	10,000,000	8,000,000
Manistee	30,000,000	27,000,000
Muskegon	30,000,000	27,000,000
Total	233,250,000	208,250,000

Searching for Treasures.

A correspondent of the Detroit Post writing from Adams says:

"There is a great deal of gold matter in Marquette county, but not a little enough to pay for working it. Many people are searching for it in the old mining, for auriferous quartz.

The same prospect in Baraga county which had especial interest, and it might also be added that the Indians have been finding gold in considerable quantities since the Jesuits came to civilize them and to send out missionaries to convert the heathen. The Jesuits, however, say that they never found any gold, and that the Indians had learned about it from Europeans. Reading between the lines of the Jesuit despatches and with some belief in discovery myself, I am inclined to think that the Indians do not lie. One day shortly before his sudden death, Dr. Houghton showed me a specimen which filled my eyes with a mass of gold. He said that it was found in some Indian village on an expedition to the place the next year. Dr. Houghton went on to say that the Indians had told him where they found it. Indians and others united but never found it. Houghton died a few months after long search, and when he did discover what he thought a most promising vein of gold, quartz, and silver, he died before he could make any search. Houghton's description and instruments, locked in safe deposit. If it is the original Houghton vein it is a very valuable property. Nothing anything yet discovered in Marquette county.

Supreme Lodge Sons of Industry.

The Supreme lodge Sons of Industry met in Detroit recently. After duly organizing the following officers were elected. The following were chosen:

Grand Master—S. E. Smith of Owosso.

Grand Deputy—J. D. Argsinger of Grand Rapids.

Grand secretary—A. Waldo of East Saginaw.

Grand Secretary—W. H. Darrow of Coldwater.

Grand counselor—J. M. Goodell of Corunna.

Grand inside sentinel—Thomas Gow, W. B. Barkhardt, supreme secretary, and O. D. Childs and A. Waldo, grand lodge representatives to the supreme lodge. H. B. Hutchins and M. E. Hutchins were the alternate representatives. Thos. Price, Wm. Swift and H. A. Wilkinson were elected grand trustees.

The following standing committees were announced by the grand master:

Finance committee—J. Argsinger, G. W. Waffle and A. H. Coolon.

Executive committee—Thos. Campbell, Thos. Price and C. A. Gard.

Committee on the revised constitution and by laws—J. M. Goodell, A. B. Hanley and G. W. Davis.

The next meeting of the supreme lodge will be held at Grand Rapids, the appointment having made subject to the call of the Grand Master.

The Murderer Confesses.

Through the management of [illegible] of Pinckney, Attorney Wm. Ball and Sheriff Bar er and wife have been induced from lessons in regard to the murder of Harvey Smith at Bloomfield on the night of August 28 Barker states that he and Jerome found Smith on the road and knocked him down. Jerome then struck him on the head with a club, and afterwards sent to his brother's house, some distance away, and got a rope. They dragged him to barley carry off the corpse.

Barker says that they carried the body a distance of over a mile to the banks of Max lake where after terribly mutilating the body, it was thrown in the water. The body was found two days afterwards. It is thought other parties had a hand in the murder. Barker says that Jerome knew Smith had money on his person, and was also aware that he was in the habit of carrying it. Smith was a man of considerable wealth, but refuses to do anything for the boys, having stipulated when he left home a number of years previous to this. Great credit is due the officers at Pinckney and Howell for the admirable manner in which the case has been worked.

Appointed and Commissioned.

Gov. Alger has made the following appointments and commissions for the same have been issued by the secretary of state:

Allen B. Morse, to be justice of supreme court, vice Thos. M. Cooley, resigned, to take effect September 30.

Chas. E. Thompson Hartford, Conn., to be commissioner of deeds for Michigan.

Allen S. Rose West Branch, to be agent of the state board of corrections and charities.

The county of Ogemaw, vice D. M. Caldwell deceased.

Osmond S. Smith Harrisville, to be circuit court commissioner for the county of Alcona.

Young Campbell from Dover, to be sergeant for the county of Iron, vice Clarence McDermott, resigned.

Gov. Alger has appointed Harry Wescott to a clerkship in the postoffice, vice Gleason removed. Also, Henry Hall, to be messenger, vice Alex. Blair, the city marshal.

Commissions as first and second lieutenants of company F, third regiment M. S. T., have been issued to Lafayette Casier and James D. Austin, respectively.

State Fair Notes.

The executive committee of the State Agricultural Society were in session a few days ago and decided upon some important matters regarding their coming fair.

Machinery hall is to be removed and enlarged. It will occupy a position 350 feet south of its present site, and 100 feet of the building will be changed and arrangements will be made that the entire building will be changed and can be seen from the grand stand.

A physiological hall will be enlarged and an addition also provided for the display of flowers.

Two very large tents will afford ample room for an exhibition, giving several hundred feet more space than last year.

A new express office is to be erected, providing ample room for both central and local [illegible] and a new office for the grounds is among other improvements.

The society will not be liberal facilities, and vis tors can go direct from all the principal cities to the fair grounds, over a special train is to run from the Saginaw Valley.

The Site Decided Upon.

The soldiers' home commission met in executive session in the governor's office and reached a result early in the evening. The Buchanan property at Sault Ste Marie was chosen by the commission. The result gives a rough estimate of the land that will be required for the institution. The Soo property has a frontage of a few who had personal interests in other locations. There is room for a large farm on the south side of the lake, near the locks and the street railroad, and is also reached by an excellent wagon road. The land is level and all the land is under thorough cultivation and is well adapted to gardening. The only condition attached to the selection is one which calls for a sewer to connect with the Soo sewerage system. The cost of this will not be an item, probably not more than a few hundred dollars. There will probably be no difficulty in the former, though the latter may cause a little trouble. The commission will meet again in Detroit on the 15th inst., when the following Tuesday, going to the Soo on the 18th, and returning to Detroit on the 19th. The board will then meet in Detroit on the 20