

Albany Sentinel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1892

Second-class matter.

MONON ROUTE

MONON TIME TABLE

SOUTH BOUND.

No. 5—Mail and Ex., Daily, 10:57 A. M.
No. 7—Mail & Accm., 11:17 P. M.
No. 31—Vestibule, daily, 11:35 P. M.
No. 3—Night Express, 12:17 P. M.
No. 45—Way Freight, 2:47 P. M.
No. 46—Way Freight, 3:20 P. M.

MONON ROUTE

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A BAD COUNTRY.

Noted for Being the Birthplace of Four

Robber Gangs.

All is not quiet as yet in Coffeyville, Kan., and vicinity, where the famous Dalton gang was exterminated recently. The locality is surrounded by toughs who seem to be seeking revenge for the killing of the robbers. The end of this desperate gang recalls the famous raid of the James and Younger boys into Northville, Minn., years ago. Then the people were aroused in time and the robbers were defeated, but the bloodshed was not so great.

The "Cracker-Neck" region, which lies on the north side of the Missouri River in Missouri, near the Kansas line, is notorious for having been the birthplace of the Jameses, Youngers, and Dalton gang. They were all related to one another. From this region, too, came the Ford boys, who finally compassed the death of Jesse James. The "Cracker-Neck" region is beautiful enough by nature. It is one of those regions where "every prospect pleases, and only man is vile." It has been long settled, though not cultivated with much skill, and is a land pink with peach-blossoms in the season. But the people, at least, a great proportion of them, have not changed much since they came from the Carolinas. They are not much addicted to newspaper reading, have Northerners, and like a good horse ridden by a despot. After Jesse James had been killed by Bob Ford, his body lay in a state in St. Joseph, Mo., and "Cracker-Neck" people came to view the body. They gazed sullenly at all that was mortal of the famous desperado, and as sullenly turned away. They did not believe in killing train and bank robbers.

Frank James is in Kansas City, and his eldest son—if he have more than one is not now born in mind—is a decent young fellow enough. The skulking, murderous lot who were protected for so long by one class in Missouri and portions of the South are practically exterminated.

Was It De Soto's Skeleton?

I believe that I helped to bury Don Fernando de Soto, says a native Louisianaian. In 1853 I was living in Baton Rouge, and in company with a couple of other young men, named Davis and Hurin, went up the river on a hunting expedition. We went up above the present site of Port Hudson, where the river makes a sharp bend to the west. There had been a big rise in the river a month before—one of the greatest ever known.

We landed on a lot of rubbish that had been swept down by the river, and used some of it to cook our supper. Hurin sat down on an old log that appeared to have been washed up from the bottom of the stream, and tapped on it with a hatchet. It gave out a hollow sound, and he began to chip into it. The wood was soft and spongy, and he soon cut through the outer crust, and putting his hand inside, drew forth a rusty sword. We quickly demolished the log and found it to contain a helmet badly corroded, and a human skeleton, that of a man, apparently six feet tall. On one of the bony fingers was a large seal ring, and about the neck was a small chain to which was suspended a bronze crucifix.

We carried the skeleton inland a quarter of a mile and buried it on a little knoll between two large live oak trees. Hurin kept the sword, and Davis appropriated the crucifix. It is said that De Soto's body was incased in a hollow tree and sunk in the Mississippi River in 1542. Whether the skeleton we found was his or not I do not know, but it had every appearance of having lain in the river for centuries.

Barbecues of Early Days.

The barbecue of to-day bears little resemblance to the outdoor love-feast of half a century ago. In those days they were not such monster gatherings, were more orderly and had a distinct political end. There were no side shows to distract the attention of the crowd, no noisy fakirs to disturb the speakers, and no such confusion and general cussedness as distinguished the general assembly of the "gatherings." In early days it was much different. Then the barbecues were given by both parties in every county in the State. There were no great crowds, for there were no railroads to bring them. The farmers drove in with their families, for miles around, and in those days a crowd of 1,500 or 2,000 was a big one. The farmers clapped in and contributed the beees, the sheep and the hams; the county committee took charge of the arrangements, and when the feast was on there was nothing thought of or discussed but politics. After the provender had disappeared came the speaking. There was only one stand and usually only one or two distinguished speakers from abroad. Home talent supplied the rest. Every ham was fat and orderly, and when the grounds were deserted and the happy farmers were driving home filled with enthusiasm and hard cider.

SCIENTIFIC AND MECHANICAL

WHITE TAR is something new. DYNAMITE was invented in 1846. The patent for the manufacture of artificial stone expired July 14, 1891. COMPOUND cylinder steam hammers are being adopted in certain factories. An exchange says that at least 1,000,000 pounds of rubber is annually used in the manufacture of bicycles.

Waste Lands in the United States comprises about 1,000,000 square miles, or about one-third of the whole country; but according to Major Powell, the well-known American traveler and engineer, 150,000 square miles of it, an area equal to half the area of the States, now under cultivation, could be reclaimed by means of irrigation within thirty years.

What They Weigh.

The United States gold dollar contains 25.8 Troy grains. The ordinary pound, avoirdupois, contains 7,000 grains, therefore \$1,000.00 in gold coin weighs 1,860 pounds avoirdupois, or over a ton and a half. The standard silver dollar weighs 12.5 Troy grains, and \$1,000.00 in the United States silver coinage will weigh 16.5 pounds, or nearly 234 tons.

Can Afford to Retire.

Rumor has it that King Charles of Romania will abdicate next year in favor of Prince Ferdinand, who is soon to be married to Princess Marie. King Charles and Carmen Sylva will have a combined civil list of \$180,000 annually, and the King's private income is \$50,000.

Very Made of Skinned Milk.

One of the uses of skinned milk is in the manufacture of an artificial ivory, which, in every respect, resembles the original. The milk is mixed with borax, and subjected to a high pressure. The product is well suited for combs, billiard balls and pipe mouth-pieces.

The Richmond Planet, a newspaper which is conducted by colored men, admits that 20,000 negroes voluntarily voted for the Democratic candidate last year.

NOTICE:—Owing to the liability of fires set on account of poaching all hunting on my lands in Jasper county, and notice is hereby given that any person trespassing on such lands with a gun will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

DR. B. J. GIFFORD.

October 14, 1892—\$2.50.

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Notice is hereby given that I will be at the office of John A. Knowton, in Johnson Township, on the Fourth Saturday of each month for the transaction of business connected with the duties of trustee.

J. M. S. CARE.

Trustee Jordan Township.

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Persons calling for letters in the above list will please say they are advertised.

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