

The Coming Question—Congress and National Improvements—The President's Message on the Canal Project—The Postal System.

[Baltimore Sun Telegram.] WASHINGTON, July 18, 1873.

It is universally conceded that the question of the general Government embarking in internal improvements is to be the leading subject brought before Congress at its next session. That a large portion of the people of both the South and West look with favor on the gigantic and specious schemes which have been broached in this connection is too plain to admit of dispute. It is known already that the construction by the general Government of a grand system of canals, to permeate in length and breadth the West and the South has been formed amongst members of Congress irrespective of party.

FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

CAUSES OF DEW.

If dew fell, it would fall for the same reason that rain falls; but dew does not fall—it is simply a deposit of moisture, always contained in the air to a greater or lesser degree, and which when there is enough of it, will always form on any cold body exposed to the moist air, in precisely the same way that a cold bottle or stone, taken from a cold cellar and suddenly exposed, in the shade, to the moist, warm summer air, will become wet; this is not sweating, nor does this moisture come out of the bottle or stone, as many people believe, but from the air. It is for the same reason that moisture will condense against the window panes when the air is cold outside, and moist inside, the moisture slowly freezing, while its deposits form crystals of ice, which we so often admire in winter. When the weather is cool enough, the moisture deposited will even freeze on plants and grass, and then we call it hoar frost; if it does not freeze, it is simply dew. The only point left to be explained is, why does the ground become so cool during the night, so much cooler than the air above it, as to cause the latter to deposit its moisture? This was for many years a vexed problem, till Wells first suggested the radiation of obscure heat, which takes place from the surface of the earth through the clear atmosphere in the space above, and so causes the surface to become much cooler than the air itself. He demonstrated this by means of thermometers placed at different heights, and also by the fact that dew is only deposited on cloudless nights. When there are clouds, they reflect the heat, or prevent it from escaping. The surface of the earth thus being kept from cooling, no dew is deposited.

CLOVER AFTER POTATOES.

The Maine Farmer says: We were long since reluctantly convinced that clover will not flourish nearly as well following a crop of potatoes, as it will after most other farm crops. Experience has taught us—and a somewhat extended observation has proved that our experience is not exceptional—that a well set, thick field of clover is rarely to be met following a grain crop after potatoes. Indeed, so fully have we been convinced of this, that we have at times thought the statement would be safe, that such clover is different, without doubt, on different soils, and on the same soil when under different treatment; still the rule, we are confident, holds good. Since our attention was called to this matter we have carefully observed results. We had under observation last year a large field of uniformly strong soil, previously plowed and manured alike, and at the same time, all sown with wheat when seeded to clover—a part of which had been planted with corn and part to potatoes. When the grass—mostly clover—was cut, on the portion where corn was grown was judged to be double that where potatoes were grown. The past winter clover was not killed at all, and at the present time the difference promises to be as great as last year.

BISMARCK AN ATHEIST.

Remarkable Interview of a Newspaper Reporter With the Great German Statesman.

The most remarkable of all the remarkable interviews whose results have been given to the public was one which a correspondent of the New York World had with Bismarck recently. We give what purports to be a report of some of Bismarck's remarks: "It is the fight of the State—empire, monarchy, or republic—against God; and in this fight the State will get the worst of it unless it succeeds in destroying the idea of God and placing itself in His place. Men say that they must have something to worship—well, then, let them worship the State; let it be all in all; let it take the place of the family as well as of the Deity; let it be the Deity; let it be the only Providence; let it provide everything, for and exact everything from the individual; let it prescribe how and when he shall be conceived and born; how fed in his youth; how long he shall serve as a soldier; what shall be his other life, when and whom he shall marry, how many children he shall have, and, finally, it need be, when he shall die." "The man who believes in God regards thus: 'God made me for his glory and for my own temporal and eternal happiness; that I may gain this he prescribes the duties that I owe to him, and the rights that I owe to myself as one man; he prevents my discharging these duties by enjoying these rights; they depend on no individual's action, and can be infringed

NOT MISCELLANEOUS.

by no human authority.' This reasoning is all fallacious, but the idea at the bottom of it is the root of all aspirations for personal freedom. It is the root of what one of your American demagogues years ago called 'the higher law.' When one knows that God does not exist, then he knows that no such rights could have been conferred and no such duties imposed; in a word, that men have no rights, and are subject wholly and rigidly to the compulsion of force—be it force exerted by a majority or by an autocrat—to the law of blood and iron—if you please.

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