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NEWS OF THE WEEK

From all Parts of the New and Old World.

BRIEF AND INTERESTING ITEMS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Current Week.

Commander Booth-Tucker has arrived in Denver to complete the arrangements for establishing a Salvation Army colony in the Arkansas valley.

In Joseph Hayward's saw mill, near Macon, Mo., a large boiler exploded and killed three workmen, Charles Heator, Walter Ferguson and Albert Yost. The mill was blown to fragments.

The graduates of the deaf, dumb and blind asylum at Berkeley, Cal., have organized a novel society. Its purpose is to influence wealthy people, and, if possible, the federal and state governments, in establishing scholarships for the blind in leading educational institutions.

The United States steamship San Francisco, the flagship of the European squadron, has arrived at Tangier, Morocco, in order to investigate and obtain redress, if necessary, for the reported flogging of American citizens at Mogador, and also to enforce the promised settlement of former claims of the United States against Morocco.

The inexorable discriminating law of China, which condemns a parasite to death by the slicing process, whether he be the perpetrator of a willful crime or the victim of an accident, is terribly illustrated by a case now vexing the people of Shanghai. A boy of 11 was swinging some article about his head in play, when it happened to strike his mother, who died from the effects of the blow. He was condemned to be sliced to death, and, though efforts have been made to save him from this fearful end, so far they have not been successful.

A dispatch from Vienna says that the steamer Ika, with a crew of 10, and carrying 50 Australian passengers, was entering the port at Pihme, on the river Plunara, while the bora was blowing hard, when she collided with the English steamer Tira, which was leaving. The bows of the Ika were stove in and she sank in two minutes. Boats hastily put off and saved the captain and seven others, but most of the passengers perished. The casualty took place in full view of thousands who crowded the pier in the greatest excitement and alarm.

According to E. Baldwin, the well-known authority on polar expeditions, there are many reasons for believing Andree, the Swedish aeronaut, is now on his return trip from the polar regions, and may soon be heard from.

Mayor Phelan, of San Francisco, has, in a very pointed way, warned the board of education that if it does not keep strictly within the letter of the law in the matter of appropriations it may be ousted from office, as was the board of supervisors.

Three daughters of Preston Howard were burned to death in their home at Port Allen, Ont. The rest of the family escaped from the burning building. The girls were aged 18, 10 and 8 years. One of them had escaped, but met her death in returning to assist her sisters.

Acting upon the request of the secretary of agriculture the treasury department has requested the secretary of state to instruct all the consular officers of the United States to refuse authentication of invoices of hides of meat cattle from districts in which anthrax exists.

The unclaimed jewels and curios to the value of \$150,000, which were found in the ruins after the fire at the charity bazaar in the Rue de Goujon, have been sold at auction. The money realized will remain bonded for 30 years, after which all the money unclaimed goes to the state.

Congress will be asked at its coming session to make a large appropriation for the manufacture of modern high-power guns to be installed for service on board auxiliary cruisers of the United States navy in time of war. Captain Charles O'Neil, chief of the bureau of ordnance, proposes to make a recommendation in his forthcoming annual report that at least \$500,000 be appropriated for this purpose. It is estimated that \$5,000,000 will be required to equip with modern batteries the 28 steamers now enrolled in the government service as auxiliary cruisers.

Fire was discovered in the main slope of mine No. 2, at Stockton, Ala. About 100 men were employed in the mine. At once an alarm was given. A panic followed among the workmen and hundreds gathered at the main entrance of the smoking mine, while rescue parties were at once formed to relieve the miners. More than 50 were gotten out from the various entrances without harm. Others were overcome by smoke and fell by the wayside. Five men, who were working about the slopes beyond where the fire originated, could not be rescued, and it has been regarded as certain that they are dead. It is thought three or four others may be in the mine.

Arthur Jordan, a Scotch explorer, who claims to be familiar with the country between Spokane and the Klondike, will leave Spokane with six men, October 10, for the Yukon country. J. J. Browne is at the head of the syndicate which is outfitting the party to prospect on Stewart river. Mr. Browne's son, Guy, will be a member of the party. They will go via Ashcroft, taking the Hudson bay trail there to Lake Tealin, down the lake to the Hootaling river, down that stream to the Yukon, thence to Stewart river.

O. R. & N. TRAIN HELD UP.

Engineer and Fireman Robbed—Highwaymen Captured.

Portland, Or., Sept. 28.—One of the boldest attempts to hold up a train reported here for years occurred Sunday evening at 9:25 o'clock on the O. R. & N. track just five miles beyond the city limits. While the regular Eastern train, No. 2, was leaving the city, two masked men succeeded in stopping the engine by some signal, and after taking the engineer and fireman into the brush beside the track, robbed them of their watches and about \$16 in money. The brakeman went forward as soon as the train stopped, and taking in the situation, crawled under the mail car and opened fire on the robbers, who got into the brush with their rifles, and amidst a volley of pistol shots, succeeded in backing the train out of danger. No one was injured, and nothing was lost except what was taken from the engineer and fireman while their captors had them under guard in the brush by the track.

Conductor Allison was made aware of the trouble by the slackened speed of the train. The brakeman was ahead of him in going forward, and had engaged in the combat with the highwaymen before he reached the upper end. He was approaching the scene of the shooting, carrying his lantern, when a shot from one of the robbers broke the globe. Realizing that something serious was in progress, he retired hastily to the interior of one of the coaches. As soon as the conductor found that the train was backed far enough to be out of danger he had it stopped, and himself armed, with the brakeman and some of the passengers who could muster a firearm, a hostile array was formed to receive the onslaught of the highwaymen.

The attack did not come, however, but instead of the robbers there came walking down the track the engineer and fireman. They were received with joy, and told their story after it became apparent that the robbers intended no further demonstration against the passengers.

When the train halted, the engineer and fireman were covered by the revolvers of the highwaymen and ordered to get out of the cab. As the two had the drop on the engineer and fireman, they thought there was no other alternative, and obeyed. As soon as they reached the ground they were ordered in front of the engine a short distance from where it stood. Following the mandate of the robbers, they walked in the direction indicated until ordered to stop. Both were searched for valuables. From the engineer a gold watch and chain were secured, and about \$7 in money. The fireman was also relieved of \$3. This accomplished, the two prisoners were permitted to return down the track to where the brakeman had run the train, while the robbers took their departure in another direction.

Robbers Captured.

The two highwaymen who held up the O. R. & N. train were arrested within 16 hours of the hold-up, and are securely lodged in the city jail. The bungling clumsiness with which they conducted the robbery characterized their movements from the time they laid their first plans.

They were arrested in a lodging house on Seventh and Oak streets, where they took up their quarters on arriving in the city, and whence they returned after their crime. They give the presumably fictitious names of George Jackson and Charles Williams. No lives were lost in the capture, nor was any time wasted. The men when arrested gave every evidence of being desperate characters, but before case could be made of their numerous weapons, the two were covered with revolvers, precluding any attempt at resistance.

Jackson and Williams, the former being about 50 years of age and the latter not more than 32, came to this city Wednesday, on the California steamer, stopping the first night in a hotel, and the next day taking a room in the lodging house at 83 Seventh street. In their room, when captured, were found two fine double-barreled shot-guns, bearing evidence of having been recently fired, and two large revolvers. Some time prior to Saturday night the housemaid, in cleaning their room, observed a fair-sized packet, marked "Handle with care." Saturday night this disappeared from their room, and found near where the train was held up, containing 15 sticks of a heavy high explosive, designated as Hercules, No. 1 powder.

The two men also went to a livery stable Sunday, took a horse and single buggy at about 5 o'clock, and did not return until 11 o'clock, that night. In this buggy was found next morning a purse that Engineer C. H. Evans identified as being the one taken from him by the highwaymen at the time of the hold-up. In the purse was a \$5 gold piece, which it also contained at the time of its departure from Mr. Evans, but he is unable to identify the piece of money as the one he possessed. The story of their capture is brief, yet reveals careful and efficient work by the officers, and a determined effort on the part of the O. R. & N. officials to bring the desperadoes to justice.

The great Mohammedan school at Cairo, El Azhar, meaning the "Splendid," has clear records dating as far back as 975.

Fatal Runaway Accident.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 28.—F. W. Valentine, a well-to-do lawyer, of Brooklyn, was instantly killed in a runaway accident in the town of Pomfret today. Henry L. Eurt, a prominent druggist of Putnam, who was with him, was probably fatally hurt. The wives of both men were severely bruised.

About forty-five thousand sovereigns pass over the Bank of England counters every day.

IF SPAIN REJECTS IT

What Will Follow Refusal to Accept Our Mediation.

WAR MAY NOT BE DECLARED

But Diplomatic Relations Will Be Suspended, and Minister Woodford Will Be Recalled.

Madrid, Sept. 28.—The arrival of United States Minister Woodford from San Sebastian has caused a sensation. The programme of the United States has been ascertained. This does not contemplate a declaration of war, if Spain rejects mediation, but, according to reports, an "ostentatious proclamation to the world of disapproval of the Cuban regime by suspending diplomatic relations with Spain, and withdrawing the United States minister."

General Woodford has declined to be interviewed on the subject, further than to say that his conference with the Duke of Tetuan, the foreign minister, was of the most satisfactory character. The unexpected bitterness of the press and of public opinion has painfully impressed him, but he hopes it will soon be allayed. He believes his mission is favorable to Spanish interests, and cannot comprehend that Spain could reject mediation designed to end an impoverishing war.

He has not named a time at which the war must be terminated, but he hopes, as shown by the rest of his tenders, it will be ended quickly. He believes that war is inflicting incalculable loss upon the United States, and that it is impossible to prevent the organization of filibustering expeditions. Unusual measures were taken to protect Minister Woodford on his journey from San Sebastian to this city, but the trip was quite uneventful. A party of gendarmes, commanded by a sublieutenant, guarded the Southern express, on which he was a passenger. Secret police were posted at the station, and the prefect of police was in waiting to escort him to his hotel. The drive through the streets was marked by no special incident, though several people saluted him, receiving a bow in return.

Some comment has been caused by the fact that Minister Woodford's family has not accompanied him, but remains behind on the French frontier. Minister Woodford explains that his party is a large one, requiring a commodious home, and prefers spending a pleasant October at Biarritz until a suitable residence can be secured here. General Woodford has already engaged a box at the Royal opera-house, and has purchased horses.

General Woodford has taken apartments at the Hotel Rome, but received official visits at the legation, where he passed the entire morning.

Have No Faith in Austria.

London, Sept. 28.—A Madrid special says: The rumor of Austrian mediation between Spain and the United States, in the event of hostilities, has created surprise, mingled with much incredulity. The Spaniards fail to see what Austria could do, unless by naval powers, or at least by the combined pacific action of several governments.

Weyler Calls for More Officials.

Madrid, Sept. 28.—Captain-General Weyler has called a request to the government to send 113 additional administrative officials to Cuba. The declaration is being made here and generally circulated that the Spanish troops in Cuba have recaptured Victoria de las Luas, which was taken by the insurgents under Garcia, on August 25.

Webster Convicted.

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 28.—The Webster murder trial ended in a sensational denouement tonight. The jury, after having been out for more than 30 hours, came in with a verdict of murder in the first degree, and was discharged, but two of the jurors, R. J. Fraiser and C. Thomas, immediately delivered a signed statement to the attorneys for the defense that the verdict was against their convictions, and they only yielded after physical and mental exhaustion from the long strain in the jury room. Fraiser is 65 years of age and Thomas 72. It is thought that this will undoubtedly lead to a new trial.

Miners Buried Alive.

El Paso, Sept. 28.—News was received here tonight that the San Pedro mine, in the Cartillas group, 12 miles from this city, in Mexico, caved in today, killing 17 men who were at work on the mine at the time. The unfortunate were buried alive under 50 feet of rocks and dirt. The San Pedro is one of the oldest mines in the group and rich in silver. It is the property of the wealthy Cartillas Company, the principal stockholders of which reside in New York. If the mine was not timbered, the Mexican government will impose a heavy fine on the company on account of the wholesale killing.

Boy Accidentally Shot.

New Whatcom, Wash., Sept. 28.—Reuben Smith, a young boy who was out hunting with a companion near Ten-Mile, this county, was accidentally shot in the neck and probably fatally injured this afternoon, while taking his gun across a fence.

Port Townsend, Sept. 28.—

The bark-rigged British ship Cape York, Captain Mitchell, arrived this morning, 64 days from Panama. While lying at the latter port there were several cases of yellow fever and two deaths aboard the ship. She cleared for this port without being disinfected or even fumigated. On arrival this morning she was ordered to Diamond point, the United States quarantine station, where the ship and crew will be detained two weeks for fumigation and disinfection.

THE MORTGAGE LAW.

Declared Unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Olympia, Wash., Sept. 27.—The supreme court today affirmed judgment in the case of Nathaniel R. Swinburne, respondent, vs. the Sheriff of Pierce county, appellant—a case that involved the legality or application of the act passed by the last legislature relating to the sale of property under execution and decree, and the confirmation of sheriffs' sales. The case was appealed from the superior court of Pierce county, when a peremptory writ of mandamus was granted against the sheriff, commanding a special execution and order, issued on June 24, 1897, in the case of Swinburne vs. Delane, and to advertise certain mortgaged property for sale to satisfy the judgment in the said cause, without appraisal or without requiring either the judgment creditor or debtor to fix a value upon the mortgaged property as a minimum price for sale, and to proceed at once under the old law regarding such sales, without regard to the recent act of the legislature regulating such matters.

The respondent contended: First—That neither the title nor the body of the act sustained the contention that the law applies to foreclosure of mortgages.

Second—That it was not the intent of the legislature to make the law retroactive; and

Third—That, if the law does apply to mortgages and it was intended to be retroactive, that portion relating to a year's stay of sale and the provision for fixing a valuation are unconstitutional, because obnoxious to section 10 of article I of the constitution of the United States regarding impairment of contracts.

Regarding the first contention, the supreme court holds that it was evidently the intent to include mortgages as well as mortgages sold under execution. Also, that it was the intention of the legislature to make the provisions of this act retroactive.

In holding the act unconstitutional in its application to contracts made prior to the passage of the act, the court decries some attention to the principle of the inviolability of contracts, which is founded upon honesty and good faith, supported in ethics as well as law. It is a principle of law that the value of a contract is deteriorated or lessened by the passage of an act, the obligation of the act is most certainly impaired. It is a principle of law that the law which is in existence at the time a contract is made becomes a part of the contract. In this case it was expressly stipulated in the mortgage that the law in force at the time the contract was made should become a part of the contract, but in the absence of such stipulation the effect would be the same. Under the law, when the contract was made, the mortgagee had a right to the sale of this land at once upon the issuance of his execution, subject only to redemption. This was a valuable right, and was no doubt taken into consideration by the judgment creditor, or in this case the mortgagee. The law now compels him to wait more than a year after judgment before he can have the same made, and it was the intent, beyond controversy that, as to antecedent contracts, this provision of the law is void.

Defences at the Golden Gate.

San Francisco, Sept. 27.—The United States engineers in charge of the harbor fortifications of San Francisco have directed that a survey be made on the shore line on the south side of the bay, and the Golden Gate, from Black point to Point Lobos. The purpose of the survey, which has just begun, is to accurately locate the forts for the information of the war department.

Army and navy officers here think the harbor defenses are now sufficiently well advanced to stand off any fleet that Spain or Japan could put into action here, and they are strong enough with the assistance of the batteries of the Monterey and Monadnock type and with the aid of torpedoes to make a splendid fight against the best fleet England would be likely to send here.

Punishment of King of Benin.

Lagos, West Coast of Africa, Sept. 27.—Drunani, the king of Benin, who has been on trial at Benin city since August last, with a number of his leading chiefs, charged with being concerned in the massacre of the unarmed expedition under British Consul Phillips, to Calabar, a slave settlement of British West Africa. Three of the king's chiefs were previously sentenced. Two of them were shot and their bodies displayed hanging in the streets for 24 hours. The third of these chiefs escaped a similar fate by committing suicide.

Typhoid Wiping Out a Family.

Greensburg, Ind., Sept. 27.—An unusually peculiar case of family affliction is reported from Forest Hill. Two weeks ago the eldest brother of Mrs. Finley Sanderson died of typhoid fever. A few days later her mother passed away from the same disease, and the fever claimed her husband last Saturday. Yesterday she herself succumbed to the malady, and now two of her children are lying at the point of death.

Wheeling Carries Dispatches.

San Francisco, Sept. 27.—The gunboat Wheeling sailed for Honolulu tonight. She was obliged to fill vacancies in her crew by drafting 40 men from the monitor Monadnock. The Wheeling carried dispatches to Honolulu in advance of the tugular mail steamer.

Greensburg, Ind., Sept. 27.—Charles Gallagher, an aged fireman at a Big Four crossing in this city, was struck by an engine and killed.

DECISION BY M'KINLEY

Mortgage on the Union Pacific to Be Foreclosed.

THE COMPANY WILL REORGANIZE

The Government Will Lose Something Like Twenty-Five Million in the Transaction.

Chicago, Sept. 27.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says:

The Union Pacific reorganization committee proposition for the settlement of the company's debt to the United States will be accepted, the government mortgage will be foreclosed, the road sold and the company reorganized. This statement is made on the highest authority.

For several days past the president has had conferences with the representatives of the company and with the attorney-general, and before he left Washington he agreed to the sale of the road and its reorganization upon the basis which the reorganization committee suggested. The announcement of the decision may be looked for at an early date. It will come in an order for foreclosure issued by the president to the secretary of the treasury.

The agreement to which President McKinley has agreed to give his sanction is the same which was submitted to congress by President Cleveland last January. Under this agreement the reorganization committee will bid for the road under a foreclosure sale, the sum of \$45,000,000.

In order to give an intelligible statement of what this bid will mean to the United States, it is necessary to enter briefly into the history of the Union Pacific obligation to the government.

The principal debt of the Union Pacific to the United States was \$35,589,512. A portion of this has not yet been advanced by the United States. The interest paid by the government amounts to \$36,954,893. The whole indebtedness on the 1st day of July, 1897, was \$70,484,405. The sinking fund of the Union Pacific in the hands of the treasurer of the United States on the same day was \$17,738,209. After deducting the sinking fund, which is an asset of the company in the hands of the United States for the purpose of paying the debt of the Union Pacific Company to the government, the sum of \$52,015,850 remains to be paid. That is the only sum which the Fitzgerald reorganization committee, as it is known, will be required to pay the government.

The loss to the government is the difference between \$53,000,000, which is the net amount due the government in round numbers, and the \$28,000,000, making a loss of nearly \$25,000,000 in round numbers, according to the figuring of the opponents of the agreement. The agreement for the foreclosure sale also contains a provision for the reorganization of the Union Pacific Railroad Company and its Kansas Pacific branch. The reorganization committee consists of Louis Fitzgerald, Jacob H. Schiefel, T. Jefferson Coolidge, Jr., Chauncey M. Depew, Marvin Hughitt and Oliver Ames. The capitalization of the new company under the Fitzgerald plan will be \$100,000,000, 4 per cent bonds, \$75,000,000 of preferred stock and \$25,000,000 of common stock.

FOOD SHORTAGE INEVITABLE.

Captain Tuttle's Report on Conditions in the North.

Washington, Sept. 27.—Captain Tuttle, in command of the cutter Bear, of the Behring sea patrol, in a report to the secretary of the treasury, gives an official account of the rescue of Captain Whitesides, his wife and a number of the crew of the steamer Nevarch, which was caught in the ice pack off Icy Cape, July 30, and also reports to the condition of affairs at St. Michaels.

The Bear reached St. Michaels August 28, where about 300 miners were found camping on the beach. On arrival Captain Tuttle received requests from the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Trading Company to remain with his command at St. Michaels until some means could be devised to maintain law and order. He was informed that among the sudden influx of people were many bad characters, and previous to the arrival of the Bear, open threats had been made as to what they would do if the transportation company failed to get them up the Yukon. This was impossible with the means at hand.

Captain Tuttle says that navigation would close in a few days and that 12 vessels were then on the way to St. Michaels, the most of them with passengers, and he thought if they did not return on the vessels which brought them, much suffering must result.

The captain decided to comply with the requests which had been made until Captain Hooper, of the command of the Behring sea fleet, could be communicated with.

In concluding his report Captain Tuttle says that in his opinion the situation on the Yukon this winter will be a very serious matter, and in his judgment the limited supply of food will result in starvation.

Tacoma, Sept. 27.—

The steamship Willamette sailed from Tacoma tonight for Skagway and way ports. She will carry to the north all the freight that can be stored in her hold and piled upon her deck. The deckload comprises 300,000 feet of lumber. The cargo will amount to 2,900 tons. The steamer has 80 head of live stock, comprising cattle, hogs and sheep. The passenger list from the Sound will number 100 people, most of whom are traders or speculators.

DEATH IN DYEA PASS.

Eighteen Packers Buried Under a Monster Avalanche.

Port Townsend, Sept. 27.—The steamer Pioneer, which left the Sound September 12 with the bark Shirley in tow for Skagway, returned at 1 o'clock this morning, having made the run down in 96 hours.

The Pioneer brings down a story of a snow or landslide between Sheep Camp and Chilkoot pass last Sunday morning in which 18 men are supposed to have lost their lives; only one body had been found, that of a man named Choyneki, cousin of Joe Choyneki, the prizefighter. The 15 or 16 men supposed to be lost were packers on the Dyea trail, and they had upwards of \$30,000 in their possession.

There are many here who do not believe the story, as it is very early in the season for snow slides. Officers of the Pioneer say the story was brought to Skagway Sunday evening by three men, who told it in such a thrilling manner as to leave no doubt as to its truthfulness. They described the avalanche as consisting of rocks, ice and dirt, the mass having been loosened by the recent unprecedented hard rain which has been falling continuously for the past month.

All the bridges on the Skagway river have been washed out and the river is a raging torrent.

W. W. Sprague, of Tacoma, who started eight weeks ago with a three-year's outfit, returned from Skagway on the Pioneer.

The steamer Al-Ki, a week overdue from Alaska, arrived this morning at 4 o'clock. She carried a large list of men returning from Skagway, who were unable to cross the pass. The snow is six inches deep at Lake Bennett, and three inches fell on the summit of Chilkoot pass last Saturday.

The Story Corroborated.

Port Townsend, Wash., Sept. 27.—Captain Neilson, master of the tug Pioneer, corroborates the story of the landslide, or more appropriately, landslide, in the neighborhood of Sheep Camp. Captain Neilson says: "Three men came to Skagway beach Sunday night with a story that at Sheep Camp that morning at 3:30 o'clock a peculiar sound from the southwest side of the mountain was heard, and before the residents of the camp could fully dress they found themselves being rapidly borne down the canyon on a mass of moving debris from the mountain side. The majority of the residents of Sheep Camp escaped, although the entire town was almost wholly destroyed."

The slide struck the town in the northern part, where nearly all the packers were quartered in tents and sleeping the sleep of hard, overworked men. The main part of the slide from the mountain missed Sheep Camp proper, although from the report very little of the town remains. Packers' camp was wholly carried away, and it is impossible to learn the full names of the unfortunates, as they were all known by surnames such as Jack, Jim, Dick, etc.

The cause of the slide was reported to be the action of heavy rains on the hills where a sort of reservoir was formed, which body of water forced the land down into the basin below. Never before have such heavy rains been experienced by old Indians in the neighborhood of Chilkoot pass."

W. W. Sprague, of Tacoma, returning from Skagway pass, verifies the above report.

THE UMPIRE CHOSEN.

Fifth Arbitrator of the British-Venezuela Boundary.

Washington, Sept. 27.—A final decision has been reached by the arbitrators who are to determine the British-Venezuela boundary line as to the fifth arbitrator, or umpire, who is to act with him. His name is for the present withheld. It is not Baron Courcel, whose name has been mentioned in this connection, nor King Oscar of Sweden, who was to name the umpire only in case the arbitrators failed to agree. An agreement was reached without the necessity of calling on the Swedish sovereign, since no question involving the Monroe doctrine is to be submitted to the tribunal. The arbitrators on behalf of Venezuela are Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Brewer, of the supreme court.

A Livestock Trust.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Assistant Attorney-General Boyd, of the department of justice, in charge of the case against the South Omaha Livestock Exchange, says he is satisfied the South Omaha exchange was organized on lines similar to those of the Kansas City exchange, which was a few days ago declared a trust by Judge Foster of the United States district court.

The suits against Western livestock exchanges begun under Attorney-General Harmon, of the Cleveland administration, but the present administration is prosecuting them with all possible vigor.

Killed by a Landslide.

London, Sept. 27.—A private dispatch from Rome says that about 40 persons were killed and many others injured by an earth slip at the sulphur mines near Girgenti.

Train Flung Into a River.

Madras, Sept. 27.—Floods have washed away a bridge on the Bangalore-Mysore railroad near Maddur. An engine and five cars filled with passengers were precipitated into the river, causing great loss of life.

Gasoline Stove Exploded.

Chicago, Sept. 27.—One man was fatally burned and six others persons injured last night by an explosion of a gasoline stove on West Adams street.

NORTHWEST BREVITIES

Evidence of Steady Growth and Enterprise.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

From All the Cities and Towns of the Thriving Sister States—Oregon.

Patrik Gibson, a farmer, was killed by a train near Oregon City.

Vale expects to be lighted by electricity by November 15 next.

The smoke from burning forests is again obscuring the atmosphere all along the coast.

W. D. Huffman, of Diamond, has just made a sale of 70,000 pounds of wool at 12½ cents.

Malheur river farmers are putting up their third crop of alfalfa, and have it mostly in the stack.

The next reunion of the soldiers and sailors of Southern Oregon will be held in Medford during September, 1898.

The 10th semi-annual meeting of the Oregon State Association of Nurserymen will be held in Salem on Wednesday, October 6.

Quail have never been known to be so thick in the vicinity of Astland for many years, and offer some good sport for local gunners.

Junction City has a new fire engine, for which it recently paid \$1,100. The engine was tested and threw a 1½-inch stream 215 feet, and two 7-8-inch streams 140 feet each.

The enrollment at the deaf-mute school at Salem is now 50. Of this number, seven are new pupils. Superintendent Knight expects a total of 60 or more within the next few years.

The burglar who broke into the post-office at Echo got \$40 in money and some postage stamps. The money and stamps have been recovered. They were rolled up by the burglar in an old stocking.

The Umatilla county court has commenced legal proceedings to recover on 28 notes that were turned over to the county court by the receiver of the defunct Penleton National bank in settlement of the county's claim against the bank.

About the largest yield of wheat yet reported comes from the old Dale place, on the Long Tom. It was Defiance wheat and was grown by Frank Bumgardner. Six acres made an aggregate yield of 290 bushels, or 48½ bushels per acre.

Klamath county farmers are busy harvesting and threshing, and crops are turning out better than was anticipated. Some crops have yielded enormously. It is reported that Shook Bros.' crop of oats in Alkali valley went 766 bushels to the acre.

Five persons were seriously injured in a collision at Eagle Point. Some miscreant had picked the switch lock, which held a special go in on the siding, which held a train of loaded logging trucks. The special had been sent with two doctors to attend P. L. Phelan, who had been thrown from a buggy and was seriously injured.

J. W. Stamper, one of the pioneers of Umatilla county, is in his 73d year, but notwithstanding he raised 13,000 bushels of wheat this year with the aid of a boy, who worked for him three months only. Mr. Stamper disposed of his wheat at 76 cents a bushel and finds himself in very good shape physically as well as financially. Mr. Stamper has resided for 26 years near Athens.

Washington.

The Tacoma schools have adopted the vertical system of writing.

The diptheria scare in Oskdale is over, and the two patients are both recovering.

Workmen have commenced to stretch the telephone wire from The