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THE ASTORIAN.

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D. C. IRELAND, Proprietor

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Agents.
L. P. FISHER, 20 and 21 New Merchants Exchange, is authorized to act as Agent for the ASTORIAN in San Francisco.
Any friend who feels an interest in the prosperity of this region, is authorized to act as Agent for this paper, in procuring subscribers.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

—The steamer Gussie Telfair was not able to leave here for the North until yesterday. She came from Portland Saturday evening.

—We are informed that the brig Sheet Anchor has been changed for Coos Bay, and that the Ivanhoe will come to Astoria from the latter port, in her stead.

—From Astoria to Salem in one day. And from Astoria to Salem before dinner, returning in the afternoon, are topics of our letter from a Farmer which we hope to see realized some day soon.

—No better weather could be asked for than that we now enjoy in this region. In Ohio, and the Western States there are snow storms, and sleet, and ice, reviving memories of thirty-seven years ago, when that country was perpetually "snowed in" for five months from the first of November.

—Every resident of this city will be pleased to learn that the Council have taken a stand favorable to all needed public improvements. The sidewalks ordered at the last meeting on Squemoque and Chenamus streets, between Main and Lafayette streets, are very desirable and needed improvements. Let the ball keep rolling.

—Col. Nesmith left for his new seat in Congress by the Ajax of Saturday last. He appeared to be in high spirits at his elevation to a position so near the one held before his fall. Wonder if he will not take his seat humming something like this:
Once I was on the nigger lay,
But now my hands are hard with toil,
I've scattered hayseed in my hat.
And blacked my boots with harness oil.
The Granger movement obliterates old party lines in more than one State—this year.

—The Clatsop county Board of Equalization have been notified by the State Board that it must advance the assessment on agricultural lands 20 per cent, making said assessment \$239,751, and also 15 per cent, to the assessment of horses making said assessment \$8,975—to do which will require considerable labor, and alteration of figures on the assessment, or the tax book, which was supposed to be about O. K., as approved by them some sixty days ago.

—The fine new steam tug Sedalia arrived on her first trip from Portland Saturday morning. She is a neat and trim built little vessel as ever floated on the water. She is officered as follows: Capt. Eugene Spedden, chief engineer John Douglass. James C. Fox, builder of her engines, came passenger by her on the first trip. She is at Ferrell's wharf, where she will receive her finishing touches, and in about one week be ready for any kind of business that may offer.

—A short time ago we met a gentleman who gave us a piece of information in regard to ascertaining the age of horses after he or she has passed the ninth year, which was new to us, and will be, we are sure, to most of our readers. It is this: After the horse is nine years old, a wrinkle comes on the eyelid at the upper corner of the lower lid, and every year thereafter he has one well-defined wrinkle for each year over nine. If, for instance, a horse has three wrinkles he is twelve, if he has four he is thirteen. Add the number of wrinkles to nine and you will get it. So says the gentleman, and he is sure it will never fail. As a good many people have horses over nine it is easily tried. If true, the horse dentist must give up his trade.

—Somebody who knows about bears and wolves and woodchucks and other animals, and their habits, should by this time have let the world know what kind of a Winter this is that is coming on.

Post Office Notice.

The General Delivery at the Astoria Postoffice will be open daily, (except Sundays), from 8 o'clock A. M. until 6 P. M. On Sundays from 1 to 2 o'clock P. M.

Money Orders issued from 8 A. M. to 4 P. M.

MAILS CLOSE:

For Portland and intermediate offices, at 5½ o'clock A. M. daily.

For Skipanon, Sea-side house, and Tillamook, daily on arrival of the mail from Portland.

For Forts Stevens and Cape Disappointment, Unity, Oysterville, and Olympia—Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 7:30 A. M.

For Knappton, Grays river, Klaskanine, Youngs river, Lewis and Clarke, Nehalem valley, etc., irregular.

CHANGES IN POSTAL LAWS.

1. Franking privilege abolished.
2. No mail matter can pass free.
3. Publishers must pay postage on exchanges received.
4. Postal cards cannot be sent to dead letter office, nor used a second time.
5. Postage must be collected on newspapers published in the county, when delivered through the mails.
6. Ordinary cards may be sent through the mails with one cent stamp, provided the message is printed. The address may be written.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1. Any person who takes a paper regularly from the post-office—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.
2. If any person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it, until payment is made, and collect the whole amount—whether the paper is taken from the office or not.
3. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncollected for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

ASTORIA FARMERS' CO. WHARF AND WAREHOUSE.—A portion of this laudable enterprise we are happy to state is rapidly approaching completion. The wharf already built 154 feet long by 64 feet wide is constructed of the best quality of Oregon Fir. The foundation consists of the largest sized piles from 16 to 22 inches diameter driven with 2800 pound hammer from 8 to 16 feet into the clay and soap stone bottom, about 6 feet from centre to centre. These are capped with long caps 12 by 14 inches and are bolted with heavy iron bolts to every pile, and in addition to the regular piles there are brace piles in alternate rows that have been hauled under the caps with large blocks and tackles and then bolted. Planking is 4 by 12 inches from 24 to 54 feet long, spiked down with 8 inch spikes.

The frame is up for the warehouse 132 feet long 45 feet wide, and as the contractor is to have it completed by the first of December it will no doubt be completed before that time. The property of this Company is now very valuable and we will venture a prediction that before one year from this time its stock will be worth more than double its par value.

We had sweet dreams the other night,
When all around was still;
We dreamed we saw a host of folks
Pay up their printer's bill.
We wish the dream would come to pass,
And our empty pockets fill,
And thus help us to pay our debts,
But don't expect it will.—Exchange.

—Insurance placed in companies that have not complied with the laws of the State where the property insured is situated (either by the company direct, or through agents or brokers,) cannot in case of loss, be sued for and recovered in any of the United States Courts, and the assured is left entirely at the mercy of such companies, and without remedy.

—A singular discussion is taking place in Jersey City, having reference to the future prospects of that town, which, it is claimed, will eventually outstrip even New York itself. A map has been published by the World, showing that within a radius of about eighteen miles on the Jersey shore are located Jersey City, Hoboken, Weehawken, North Bergen, Newark, Elizabeth, Rathway, Greenville, Bayonne, Orange, Elizabethport, Seacaucus, Rutherford Park, Hackensack, Passaic, Patterson and many other smaller towns and villages. This territory contains about 400,000 inhabitants. An attempt, it is said, will be made in the New Jersey Legislature, the coming Winter, to incorporate all of these towns into one large city.

OUR SPICERY.

"Dog ding it all tew dingnation!" is a mild expletive of enraged Yankees.

Chicago is of the opinion that such a great work of nature as the Mississippi should remain un(a)bridged.

Those old soakers never lack for arguments. Lately one replied to a temperance lecture by the following poser: "If water rots the soles of your boots, what effect must it have on the coat of your stomach?"

An Illinois State Fair Committee avoided trouble by awarding first premiums to all the varieties of sewing machines exhibited.

The Mennonites don't like the Far West. They meet other men o'nights there who don't agree with them.

A tombstone in the old village of Concord, Mass., commemorates a little girl of 11 years as "excellent for her reading and soberness."

A man named Gin, in Indiana, has petitioned to have his name changed, because he cannot persuade any damsel to accept his present one.

Winona is to be amused by what is called a wizardian cagliostromantheum. The amusement consists in trying to pronounce the title of the show.

The little boy who doubled-up his fists cannot discover that he has any more of them than before, and has lost faith in arithmetical progression.

"Manachtaneinks," is what the Indians first called the site on which New York is built, and it means "the place where they all got drunk."

Indianapolis is proud of the alleged circumstance that Dr. Schliemann, the explorer of Troy, paid a brief visit to its bailwick in 1869, stopping long enough to procure a divorce.

The young women who mean to ask admission to Columbia College will apply for a mandamus if they are refused. They will be apt to get something of the sort, whether they apply for it or not.

The beavers and musk-rats in the North are reported as having already commenced to put up double doors and windows to their dwellings—and the rural seers predict an early and severe winter.

Eli Perkins writes that Dan Marks, a veteran baggage smasher, experienced religion at Round Lake, New York, and has since confessed in open meeting that he had smashed \$13,000 worth of trunks in twelve years, and had been too sick a good deal of the time to attend personally to the business.

They have a judge in Kansas who fined a lawyer for saying "sic transit." The official thought it was swearing, and remarked indignantly, that nobody should sick him in that court.

—Concerning the superiority of the Columbia river salmon received in Australia, we have the following, from the Melbourne Trade review of August 12th: The Cesarewitch from San Francisco has arrived with salmon—say 444 bbbs and 261 hfbbbs the bulk of which was not of first-rate quality and a portion in bad order. A parcel of fair quality and condition was offered at auction, August 5th, and brought 4d4½d per lb duty paid—duty 5s per cwt. The same ship carried 1,200 ccs of Columbia River Salmon, ca 4doz cans, Hapgood, Hume & Co.'s packing these were in fine order and condition, and sold at about 16s per doz, duty paid—about \$16 per case.

—There are now four lines of Steamer communicating with Panama, viz: The two American lines, the San Francisco and the Central American, and the English and the French, whose passengers, freight and specie have to be transported over the Panama Railroad. By care, attention and hard work the American naval force has securely protected the transit and passengers and their effects have been, up to this time, transported over the railroad without delay.

—Capt. Rockhill of Philadelphia proposes to introduce a novelty in the way of ship-building. He has submitted his plans to a prominent Ship-builder, who has enough faith in the feasibility of the plan as to take stock in a vessel after his model to have the vessel built without the usual rib frame, which has to be sheathed inside and out with heavy planks, and is much more simple. He would have the plank 12 inches wide, and laid flat, one upon another, and firmly bolted together. It is said that 40 per cent. can be saved in the cost of construction by the proposed method.

THE YAKIMA RIVER MINES.

For many years it has been known that gold in large quantities existed in what is known as the Yakima country, but just precisely where none were able to ascertain. The belief was strengthened by the fact that on several occasions Indians belonging to the Yakima Reservation had sold to the traders at the Dalles considerable quantities of coarse gold. On being questioned, the Indians invariably refused to disclose where they had obtained the precious metal. Confident that gold was to be found in paying quantities, several prospecting parties were organized. They all found the color, but none were successful in finding sufficient to warrant them in remaining. These reports reaching the ears of several men residing near Yakima City, and confident of the existence of gold in the locality, organized themselves into a prospecting party, and about the first of August last started out, fully prepared to thoroughly explore a large extent of country. After an examination they concluded to commence operations on a small creek which empties into the Weenachie. At the expiration of ten days a "clean up" was made, disclosing that they had only realized about seventy-five cents a day to the man. This meagre showing discouraged the party, and they at once determined to return home. On the 20th of September, after traveling several days, they camped on the bank of the Swauk, a stream about the size of Mill Creek. While some were preparing the evening meal others were examining the stream, with the vague hope that possibly they might be fortunate enough to "strike it." Raking around among the loose dirt near the water's edge one of the men discovered a piece of gold worth about six bits. Encouraged by this favorable indication the men commenced reviving the bedrock, which in places was exposed. Their exertions were soon rewarded by the sight of a \$12 nugget. During the afternoon, and before supper, the party had secured in the neighborhood of \$40. The journey homeward was now indefinitely postponed. The next day they prospected up the creek for a distance of a quarter of a mile. The result of the day's work was \$164, nearly \$25 to the man, there being seven in the party. The stream was then explored for a distance of six miles, and the farther up they went the richer the prospects. The dirt from the hills on either side of the creek averaged seventy-five cents to the pan. Wherever the bed of the creek is exposed, gold in large quantities is to be found. In some places the water is quite deep, and to remedy this the course of the creek will have to be turned, which can be accomplished without difficulty. The gold is coarse, the largest piece found so far weighing \$18, and very much resembles the Kootenai dust. Three hundred and fifty claims have been taken up and recorded. The diggings are two hundred miles from Walla Walla, and sixty-five from Yakima city. Along the creek there is a heavy growth of timber, and, therefore, there will be no lack of lumber for mining purposes. It is thought the miners will be able to work through the Winter, as the weather in that locality is mild. For the main facts we are indebted to Mr. Goodwin, who reached here on Monday, direct from the diggings.—Walla Walla Statesman.

—In 1873, the whole number of deaths resulting from lightning stroke was 202. Of these 148 were of males and 54 of females. The mortality was greatest between the age of ten and thirty. The same year there were 397 deaths from sun-stroke and 1,345 by suicide.

TELEGRAPH DISPATCHES.

The Price of Gold.

PORTLAND, Nov. 10.—Gold in New York to-day, 108½; Portland Legal Tender rates,—90½ buying, and 91½ selling.

Miscellaneous News.

Virginia will probably go 15,000 for Kemper Democrat.

The Republican ticket for State officers in Massachusetts is elected.

In Maryland the Democrats elect the entire ticket by 14,000 majority.

The Indications are that Minnesota has gone Republican by a handsome majority.

Wisconsin has gone Democratic by 6,300 majority. The Republicans concede the defeat of Washburne.

New York State Election returns are badly mixed. The Democratic State ticket will probably be elected.

The men captured on the steamer Virginus are being tried as pirates.

F. F. Low, Minister to China, will proceed in a few weeks, on his way to China. He had an extensive interview with the President and Secretary of State recently. They express themselves satisfied with his official record as Minister to Peking.

Accounts of the Grant Parish outrage telegraphed from New Orleans November 1st, as shown by all accounts, was perpetrated after the arrival of the Metropolitans, and had been fully confirmed by publication in the Sunday's papers of the proceedings. A public meeting was held in Alexandria to consider the subject.

A Washington dispatch of the 4th, referring to a decision of the Supreme Court, in the case of Lamb vs. Davenport, appealed from Oregon, it was held that contracts made by actual settlers on public lands, concerning their possessory title, and the title to be acquired in future from the United States, are valid as between the parties to the contracts, though there be at the time no act of Congress by which the title may be acquired, and the Government is under no obligations to grant a rehearing of parties in regard to title, unless they are forbidden by some positive law. The provision of the Oregon Donation Act of 1850, which forbids the future sale of the settler's interest until the patent shall issue, so far from invalidating such contracts made before its passage, raises a strong implication in favor of their validity, whether the husband or wife who takes as survivor the share of deceased under the Donation Act, takes as purchaser or by inheritance. It is held—that the contracts of the husband, concerning the title or interest in part allotted to him, made before the Donation Act was passed, are binding on the title which comes to his children by reason of the patent issued after the death of both husband and wife. The decree is affirmed.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

—Tennessee has advertised the refinement of her people by allowing a "gander-pulling" exhibition at her State Fair. The method of conducting the noble sport is as follows: A live goose, its neck plucked and greased, is suspended from a rope at such a height that a man riding horseback can barely reach it. The man who can ride under the bird at a gallop and snatch it from the rope is the winner. A good way to put a stop to this sort of thing would be to oblige the managers of the fair to act the role of goose once or twice.

—The Michigan Constitutional Convention has just closed its fifty days session. Among the changes recommended is one empowering the Legislature to establish maximum rates of fare and freight on railroads, to regulate the speed of trains and, to prohibit discrimination.

—Here are a few of the reasons why horses are whipped: For stumbling, owing to careless and reckless driving; for slipping down, owing to smooth shoes; for shying when frightened; for any vigorous efforts to be relieved of torturing flies; for the breaking down of the vehicle; and sixthly, because the wind blows off the driver's hat.