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An Independent Paper, Devoted Especially to the Interests of Southern Oregon.

VOL. 2.

GRANT'S PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OR., FRIDAY JULY 23, 1886.

NO. 17.

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THE BALMY CHINOOK.

The warm Pacific wind which penetrates inland across Oregon, Washington and British Columbia to the valleys of Idaho, Montana and the Canadian territories, melting the snow and keeping the cattle ranges clear for stock to graze the entire winter, is known throughout this whole region as the "Chinook" It follows the mountain passes in its journey inland, and consequently is in some localities a south wind, in others a north wind, and varying from all points of the compass west of these. The wind in its relation to the province of Manitoba, was thus recently discussed by Mr. A. Bowerman, B. A., at a meeting of the Manitoba Historical Society in Winnipeg:

Some one has said, "The climate makes the country." If this proposition is only measurably true--and there seems no doubt of it--there are few questions of greater importance in connection with the capacities and future prospects of our land. It may have been noticed how readily the citizens of our country, having grown proud of the country, become likewise proud of the climate. It would be counted a strange method to open up the question of our climate with a consideration of a phenomenon occurring a thousand miles west, but our ideas readily adapt themselves to the largeness of our land. "No pent-up Utica contracts our powers; but the whole boundless continent is ours," and we easily regard the Rockies as only just the other side of our horizon. Moreover, it will appear on inquiry, that the Chinook winds are intimately connected with the whole question of our climate. These winds are noticed by the observer as coming down in the dead of winter from the snow covered mountains so warm and dry as to cause the total disappearance of the snow in a few hours. So hard is it to credit the evidence of our senses, that the common description of these winds is that they come through the passes of the mountains from the Pacific--a wonder none the less than that which it is supposed to explain. One observer of some note, indeed, hazards the conjecture that the warm winds of the Gulf of Mexico reach all the way up north, over the high plateau of the great American desert, over the still higher mass of hot and rarified air overhanging this desert, and drop conveniently on our lower plains to the north. But as this writer--of deserved repute in his own department--manifestly confounds the lines of equal heat with the direction of the winds, we may be excused from giving much consideration to his theory. Fortunately, we have sufficient data of a strictly reasonable and scientific kind, without indulging in conjectures, which, too often, are the only support of theories on climate or the weather. A very brief statement of a few points in physical geography may be necessary as a prelude to the matter before us. Outside of the region of trade winds, i. e., from thirty to sixty degrees north latitude, is a zone noted for its alternate winds; winds from the southwest alternately with winds from the northeast--the southwest prevailing. This is the belt of the return trades, or anti-trades. As the trade winds get their direction from the motion of the earth, which glides, as it were, from under the cool winds moving equatorwards, they retain the westward motion gained at the equator, and in latitudes not so progressive outstrip the motion of the earth, and thus give rise to southwest winds. But these have not the persistency of the genuine trades of the equatorial regions, as so merely alternate with the polar winds from the northeast. Such being the state of things in the wide belt including such a great part of the continent, we may now take up the local modifying influences. Consulting our map, we notice a lofty barrier along the west coast--in fact, a number of successive ranges of mountains. The point most interesting to us is where the Coast range is broken by the inlet called the strait of San Juan. And here let me call attention to the peculiar elbow made by the ranges nearest the ocean, the direction changes from due north to northwest, best seen on a globe. Next note that all the ranges are much lower here than further south. The coast range south of forty-nine degrees rises up like a great wall, and the inner ranges are still loftier. Then the valleys of the Fraser and Columbia give unmistakable hints of passages through the mountains, which furnished a pathway for the winds long ages before the adventurous railroad builder threaded his way across and through the labyrinth. The southwest winds then blowing warm from the Japan current, the Gulf streams of the Pacific brought to a focus, as it were, in this angle of the mountains, crowd onward through the river valleys, over the low ranges, across the sea

of mountains of British Columbia, and finally breasting the last great wall of the Rocky mountains, make their final leap into the valley below.

Having thus traced their course over the mountains, let us inquire into their adventures in this journey of five hundred miles. On leaving the Pacific they are warm and heavily laden with moisture. The first range they meet takes toll from their burden. Heavy clouds are formed and rain falls. The process is repeated at each successive range. In higher regions the scanty supply of moisture now becomes snow. In lofty altitudes, almost completely robbed of moisture they become greatly rarified and very cold. Moisture is gone and heat is gone. Our problem is still unsolved. Let us now retrace our steps to the coast and examine into the question of heat, for modern science declares that there is never lost any more than any other force of nature. We find that in each condensation, first cloud, then rain and snow, heat is produced--to speak accurately, latent heat becomes sensible. Rain and snow remain behind, are absolutely lost to the air currents. Not so the heat; this remains with the air and seems to be increased. But in the lofty regions of the mountain rarefaction takes place, and this uses up heat. It requires heat to produce rarefaction, or disappearance of heat accompanies rarefaction, put it which way you will, the heat is not lost, and when, pouring down the mountain side, the great volume of dry air becomes condensed again in lower altitudes, this heat, latent away up in the lofty peaks, now comes out from its hiding place and the dry warm air proceeds to business by licking up the snow, not leaving behind even the moisture caused by its melting. We are speaking now of the winter. Not much heat can be lost in contact with the dry snow, and what is lost by radiation into space may be made up by the heat of the sun, even in the short days of winter.

Some other considerations remain to be noticed: As I have just said the time is winter. In the long, melting days of early summer, over the dissolving snows the ravines and warm slopes, over thousands of foaming torrents and countless rivulets, the air, instead of gaining heat now loses it by the reverse operation, and thus chilled it falls on the ill-fated potato patch in the form of June frost. This matter of heat absorbed by thawing and set free by freezing is one of common experience. The chilly feeling of a March or April day is shivering in the memory of all of us, who, in early life, braved the inclement skies of Ontario. And some of us have known the farmer's plan of saving his potatoes by carrying water into the cellar on an extra cold night--the water giving off in the process of freezing sufficient heat to save the vegetables. Of course the process does not go on ad infinitum. But the process of heat disappearing by the rarefaction of air and becoming sensible again on recondensing--this is not so much within the range of our daily experience. The falling of a barometer before a storm is due to the rarefaction of the air, and we have all noted the increasing coolness at such a time, though almost invariably this is accompanied by the formation of clouds which quickly shut out our great source of heat, the sun, so that the lesser cause of coolness is obscured by the greater. Those who have ascended mountain peaks have observed, first, the rarity of the air, and second, the coolness. They may consider if the latter is caused by the former, as *post hoc* is not always *propter hoc*. Suppose they are not related as cause and effect, but only accidentally. Then, first, if it is warmer near the sea level? It can not be the earth simply which gives the heat, for then, a high plain, or even a mountain peak, might be as hot as the low level, and second, we know that heated air rises, so the greater the elevation the warmer should be the air. The fact is, nature does not work for nothing, or with nothing. If a gas, air for example, becomes rarefied--and it will if it gets a chance--heat is used in the process; and when the re-condensing takes place the heat is given off again, all of it. Nature is not a banker, and knows nothing of discount. When a spring is compressed, its power lies dormant. When you wind up your watch, you are only storing the force exerted by the muscles of your fingers, and the spring will give back all the force again, minus the friction, of course. I have dwelt at some length on this point because it is one in which the greatest incredulity is manifested, and all sorts of theories have been projected from the refusal to believe that warm winds can come from snow-clad mountains. When Sir Alexander MacKenzie first wintered on the Peace river, away up in latitude fifty-nine degrees, like a sea-

ond Balboa looking out in his mind's eye over the great Pacific, he saw the striking effect of these southwest winds and noted in his journal that the ocean could not be far away. Little did he think that nearly six hundred miles of rough mountains lay between him and its warm shores. This was in 1792. He remarked the difference between the effect there at the mouth of the Smoky river, where the snow disappeared in a few hours, and at Fort Chipewyan, on Lake Athabasca, three hundred miles further east, where no thaw occurred, though the wind brought delightful, clear weather. It is only a few years since one of those indefatigable slaves of nature, a German doctor--what should we know but for the German doctors?--worked out a mathematical demonstration of the amount of heat made latent by rarefaction in the higher altitudes and regained by condensation; and, still more, the amount of heat caused by the precipitation of moisture as the wind rises up the slope of the mountain. This calculation, I may see, seems to have been undertaken to solve the same problem in Europe, as they have, it seems, Chinook winds under the lee of the Alps and the mountains of Norway, only Chinook is not the German name of it. It is said that even the west coast of Greenland is visited by such a wind, coming over the elevated lands of the interior. These winds come from the southwest, far away over the ocean, and are not cooled by the colder current along the coast inside the Japan current. We have constantly to remember the looseness that prevails in our ideas of heat and cold. Two quite different standards prevail, one the thermometer, the other our feelings. In summer a zone of forty degrees F. is quite too near the freezing point to be pleasant, while, as we all know, anything near zero in winter is bracing and delightful. But water freezes and snow melts, not by our feelings but by the thermometer. Thirty-five degrees F. with dry air is quite sufficient to remove six inches of new fallen snow. And we must not think of these winds as constant. They alternate with their contending brothers from the north, this fury of alternate winds extending around the whole globe. The great fertile belt lies just on the border where the polar winds, somewhat moist and decidedly cold, meet and contend with the heated air from the Pacific, dried but only partially cooled by the mountain ranges it has crossed. This contact of heat and cold in the air always produces precipitation, rain or snow. It may not be superfluous to call attention to the fact that the same cause which now keeps up the fertility of the great Northwest evidently produced that fertility. Even in remote ages--geological ages--there must have prevailed the same climatic conditions, the same warm Pacific winds, dry to a degree probably forbidding forest growth, the same colder and damper winds from the north, the same mantle of snow and same deep grip of winter's frost to modify the too ardent flame of our long summer's day, which would otherwise parch the tender shoots of growing plants. These conditions must have prevailed since the northern half of the continent has had the shape it now has. Whether once the Rockies were too low to obstruct the moisture laden winds which thus swept far inland across the plains, whether the Laurentian range, the true and ancient backbone of the continent, then reared its lofty head higher than even its younger upstart brother, the Rocky mountain range, does now, thus serving to catch the moisture carried all the way from the Pacific and to condense it in the form of the great snow masses and glaciers, the real polar ice-cap of pre-Adamite ages, whether this is true--such a state of things would furnish a solution of some of our problems--mighty glaciers have written their autobiography in marks and deep grooves over the rocks of half our continent, a record before which the works of Memphis kings are as insignificant as they were when compared with Milton's Saticanic architects: These glaciers, sliding down to the south and west, would scarcely yield to anything but the periodical visits of great Sol himself. The drippings furnished a supply of pure ice water for the Mississippi. Their grinding action made the soil; and the streams of fogs and rains all along its borders furnished moisture for the coarse and hardy vegetation of the times. But what the sun, unaided, could not accomplish in the lofty rarified air of those primitive peaks, was at last accomplished by the subsidence of the great range itself. Back, slowly back, through successive centuries of the glaciers retreated, leaving a great shallow lake between the rear of their baffled columns and the newly elevated coasts whence the shortened Mississippi took its rise. Still further centuries and a further subsidence drained

TO ADVERTISERS.

Grant's Pass, so named after General Grant, is a county seat centrally located in Southern Oregon. It is a progressive railroad town of 600 inhabitants, and is the main supply point for a large portion of country devoted to mining, lumbering, agriculture and fruit-raising. Climate unexcelled.

The Courier being the only paper published in Josephine county, with a good circulation in Jackson county, enables it to be one of the best advertising mediums in Southern Oregon. For rates, address THE COURIER, Grant's Pass, Oregon.

Proceedings of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of the United States.

The Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association of the United States met at the Neil House, Columbus, Ohio, June 17th; 1886. The meeting was one of unusual interest. The various papers read all embodied deep thought and research. The most interesting discussions were on the value and use of fruits, and regarding the best methods of preparing fruit for market and preserving it for family use. The opinion seemed prevalent that evaporated fruit was bound to obtain and hold the highest position in public favor. Not only is evaporated fruit superior in appearance, flavor, in healthfulness and in keeping properties, but it commands a much higher price; ordinary dried apples are worth from two to two and a half cents per pound, evaporated apples from eight to ten cents. Common dried peaches are worth from three to five cents, evaporated from eighteen to twenty-two cents. Ezra Arnold, the Illinois fruit grower, presented drawing and specifications of a cheap evaporator made and used by himself with which he has had better success than with the more expensive dry houses and evaporators. He evaporated apples in two hours, strawberries in three hours, peaches in two hours, cherries in two hours, corn in two hours, and all kinds of fruit proportionally quick. The evaporator is a marvel of simplicity and excellence, and can be made by any one at a very trifling cost. By its use millions of dollars can be saved the producer and consumer each year. There are thousands of families that dry large quantities of fruit annually in the old fashioned low way, and sell it at the old fashioned low price, when they could with but little expense make an evaporator and evaporate five times as much fruit and sell it for five times as much per pound. There are thousands of families in the cities that can at times when the market is glutted, buy fruit for less than the cost of production, and with an evaporator can prepare in a few days sufficient fruit for a year's consumption, and at one-tenth the usual expenditure. Mr. Arnold said he did not intend to make or sell evaporators and would consign to the Association his right and title to his evaporators provided the Association would procure cuts to illustrate the different parts and distribute gratuitously among the farmers, fruit raisers and consumers of the United States complete illustrated directions for making and using this evaporator. On motion, Mr. Arnold's proposition was accepted, and the following resolution adopted:

Resolved, That the secretary of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association be authorized to inform the people through the leading newspapers in each state, that illustrated directions for making and using Arnold's fruit evaporator can be obtained by addressing our secretary, W. Orlando Smith, P. O. Box 104, Alliance Ohio enclosing stamps for return postage, and that the secretary draw on the treasurer for the necessary amount to defray expense of wood cuts, printing, etc.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Arnold for his valuable gift to the Association. On motion a vote of thanks was tendered the press throughout the country at large for the courtesies extended to us in publishing the call for the meeting of our Association, and for publishing the proceedings of our previous meetings.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet at the Southern Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 9, 1886, at 10 a. m.

W. ORLANDO SMITH, Secretary.

Some people think they are insulted if a newspaper publisher send them a statement of their account, but the dealers of paper, ink and printing material never fail to send us a statement every month, and don't care a straw whether we like it or not. It is simply a business matter and the man that gets his back up about it is very foolish in our opinion.

When in reading we meet with any maxim that may be of use, we should take it for our own, and make an immediate application of it, as we would of the advice of a friend whom we have purposely consulted. [Colon.]