

The Weekly Chronicle.

COUNTY OFFICIALS. County Judge... Robt. Mays Sheriff... T. J. Driver Clerk... C. L. Phillips Treasurer... C. L. Phillips Commissioners... J. S. Blowers Assessor... W. H. Whipple Surveyor... J. B. Gott Superintendent of Public Schools... C. L. Gilbert Coroner... W. H. Butts STATE OFFICIALS. Governor... W. P. Lord Secretary of State... H. E. Kincaid Treasurer... Phillip Metcahan Supt. of Public Instruction... G. M. Irwin Attorney-General... C. M. Idelman Senators... G. W. McBride J. B. Mitchell B. Herman Congressmen... J. W. R. Ellis State Printer... W. H. Leeds

PENSION ABUSES.

The present necessity of retrenchment in government expenditures will prove of great value if it should not only stop further pension extravagance, but lead to a revision of existing laws and of the pension roll itself. Hitherto congress has paid little heed to warning voices from the great public, and none at all to various presidential suggestions as to the need of preserving the honor of the pension system. It was thought a few years ago that the highest point in pension expenditure had been reached, but the annual bill is increasing again, and promises to go several millions higher. Every congressman now sees that care in making appropriations is necessary lest the monthly deficit be continued indefinitely.

During President Cleveland's first term it was extremely unpopular to criticize the pension system. It was taken as offensive to the veterans, and as indicating lack of sympathy with the great service they rendered the country in restoring the union and making the United States free from slavery. Since Republicans of the stalwart type in both branches of congress are now calling attention to the need of keeping down the pension appropriation by guarding against abuses of the generous provisions of the laws, it may not be considered unpatriotic to urge the cause of pension reform. Many abuses have recently been pointed out, and it is clearly made the duty of congress to provide a remedy.

An elaborate article in the New York Sun will afford many hints to willing reformers. It makes a careful estimate of the survivors of the civil war on the basis of the commonly received statement that 2,063,391 individual actually served in the union forces. Of these 304,360 died in battle or in hospital. According to the census of 1890, there were then 1,034,073 survivors, showing a natural decrease, up to that time, of 724,958. Since 1890 it is estimated that from various causes the list has been reduced to 727,122. In addition are widows and dependents of dead soldiers. From the pension list it appears that there are 947,542 pensioners, including 65,860 children and 27,559 dependents, leaving 854,114 survivors and widows, or 40,745 more than the whole number of soldiers and widows surviving. In addition 187,505 survivors are demanding pensions.

Remembering that there are many actual survivors who are not receiving pensions, it must be admitted that we have here a problem in arithmetic which is not easy of solution. Pensioners are proverbial for longevity. We still have on our lists not only pensioners of the war of 1812, but also of the war of independence. But it would appear that participants in the civil war have the power of coming to life again, and that the list of survivors by some unexplained miracle is increasing year by year, notwithstanding the expectations of an accelerated death rate among them.

There are on the pension rolls 378,000 who receive their pensions under the provisions of the act of 1890. Of these, says the Sun, not one received an injury during the war, and not one was able to trace any disability back to service in the war. Their disability, when they had any, arose subsequent to the war and from absolutely independent causes. So with the widows who are drawing pensions under that act. Their husbands died of diseases and causes not in any way traceable to their war service. But, as has been shown and as is plain by the records on their face, more "survivors" are

drawing pensions than there are survivors, and, as everybody knows, thousands upon thousands of real veterans counted among the 727,000 survivors of the war are not drawing pensions.

The probability, if not the certainty, of great fraud, is sufficient to make the duty of congress an urgent one. The temptation is a strong one. Many argue that as it is public money, and some are getting it fraudulently, they might as well have their share. The roll should be revised so as to make it an honest roll, and the many special acts of congress making the way to the treasury easier and the pay larger should be examined, and some of them repealed.

AMERICAN DOMESTIC COMMERCE

With a territory as large as Europe, a population double that of Great Britain, and domestic industries nearly equalling the aggregate of those of Great Britain, France and Germany, the foreign trade of the United States is much smaller than that of any of these countries. But in twenty years France increased her foreign trade three per cent, Germany eleven per cent, the United Kingdom seventeen per cent, and the United States sixty-six per cent. This growth is especially remarkable, and eighty-six per cent of American shipping is engaged in coasting or inland navigation, and as the bulk of the foreign trade is done on foreign bottoms.

This striking fact is elucidated and many other interesting phases of the growth and status of American industries are shown in an article entitled "Thirty Years of American Trade," by M. G. Mulhall, in the November North American Review. Mr. Mulhall "the true policy of the United States points to a free admission of all fibers, so as to stimulate textile industries, and thus render the country independent of foreign manufactures of this description." The conditions prevailing under the experimental free trade of the Wilson bill are of too recent occurrence for those interested in the wool industry to coincide in this opinion.

The eminent writer of the article suggests also that all custom houses between the United States, Mexico and Canada should be abolished without infringing on political independence. This, he argues, would double the trade between the United States and Canada to the benefit of both nations, but Canadian hay, lumber and coal have figured too largely in commercial affairs recently for Americans to appreciate the wisdom of such an alliance.

The internal trade of our country is estimated at \$40,000,000 daily, and the external commerce a little over \$5,000,000 daily. The former has increased forty-nine per cent since 1880, while the latter has risen barely ten per cent. Internal trade is the best gauge of national progress because it reflects the power, energy and resources of a people.—Wool Record.

The world may progress in some things, but the proportion of fools to wise men seems to remain as great as ever. Recent inquiry in the workings of the great gambling establishment, Monte Carlo, developed some interesting, as well as astounding, facts. In addition to the subsidy paid the Prince of Monaco, the gambling houses provide for and keep the judges, police, lighting, water, postoffice, clergy and charitable institutions. The total revenue of the tables last year was 1,540,000 pounds. An interesting item is the press subventions 25,000 pounds. It is stated that it is absolutely necessary to expend a large sum in securing the good will of the continental press, and it is said that over one-half the stories of suicides are only bids on the part of newspapers for a share in the "boodle." As the world grows better in some things, the refinement of civilization brings with it vices of a deeper type.

The representative of a number of eastern colonists is in The Dalles looking for some location suitable for such a settlement. This representative has visited all sections of the Willamette valley, but does not wish to make a choice until he has

seen Eastern Oregon as well. These colonists wish to secure several thousand acres lying together. They come with money, and are prepared to build homes in a new country. It is immigration of this kind that efforts should be made to induce to this country. There is room in Wasco county for hundreds of more happy and prosperous homes, and when the simple truth is known, this section needs no other advertisement.

The Willamette valley can no longer claim superiority over Eastern Oregon in the matter of moisture. The Cascade mountains have allowed the rain laden clouds to pass without any hindrance, and the amount of rainfall here this season will be above the average. Plenty of moisture is the farmer's want and whether it comes in the shape of snow or rain, its benefits are the same.

STEPHEN GIZZBUNKLER.

Old-Time Resident of Storkville Center—Remarkable Experience.

"I doubt if any man ever had a more singular experience," said Col. Calliper, "than once befell to the lot of my old friend, Stephen Gizzbunkler, who formerly lived in Storkville Center, Vt. Mr. Gizzbunkler, like most of us, had his peculiarities, the most conspicuous, perhaps, being his habit of always carrying an umbrella. No matter what the weather nor what the signs might be, he never went out without an umbrella; he knew it would be sure to rain if he did. Where he got that impression I don't know. He may have been out some time in his youthful days in his best clothes without an umbrella when it came on to rain.

"Some years ago when they began making the curious and costly experiments in the arid regions of the far west, firing explosives from balloons, and one thing and another, to produce rain, Mr. Gizzbunkler, standing one day with his umbrella under his arm, in the Storkville Centre post office, perusing the newspaper which he had just taken from the mail, said:

"Why do they waste all this money in mere experiments when they could get rain with certainty and at far less cost? Why don't they send for me?"

"What could you do?" asked a neighbor who was standing near.

"Why, I could go out without my umbrella," said Mr. Gizzbunkler, and, amazing as it may seem, it is not the less certainly a fact that he wrote to the mayor of a town near which some of these experiments had been conducted offering to go there and produce rain for his expenses. It shows the consuming desire for rain on the part of the people and their readiness to take any chances to get it, that they immediately sent for Mr. Gizzbunkler a draft for the money to come on with, without even asking him how he was going to produce rain.

"When Mr. Gizzbunkler arrived at the town he was met at the railroad station by a delegation of citizens who escorted him to the hotel; later he was waited on officially by the rain committee of the town council, who, in the presence of the reception committee and a large number of other interested citizens, asked Mr. Gizzbunkler his plans.

"They had some queer people in this town at one time or another, but Mr. Gizzbunkler appeared to them to be the most useless person they had ever had there. At first they thought they would kill him at once; that there would at least be some slight saving in shipping him back as freight; but Stephen was so obviously a well-meaning man that finally they thought they would give him a trial, which they did on the following day.

"It was a day on which any other man in the world would have left his umbrella at home, anyway. Stephen Gizzbunkler was about to leave his at home for the first time in many years, and he was equally confident of what would happen. He had been a little shaken personally, by the attitude of the people after his simple plan had been unfolded; but his confidence in the success of his plan was quite unbroken. He laid his umbrella carefully across the foot of the bed in his room at the hotel, looked at it almost lovingly, and then went down to meet the committee.

"They walked, Stephen ahead, the rain committee and the reception committee next, and then after them the people, along the dusty road.

"Did it rain? No, no, no. It seemed to Stephen, and it seemed to the people, too, that the corn shivered up as he passed, and that the last blades of grass withered.

"They gave him one more trial the next day, with the same result, and then they took him back to the railroad station. They had taken him away from the station in a carriage; they carried him back on a rail; but this was a matter of detail that almost escaped Stephen's attention at the time, so glad was he to get back at all.

"On the day after Mr. Gizzbunkler's return to Storkville Centre he went out without an umbrella; he had had a great experience, and he had been somewhat impressed by it. Possibly he had been mistaken all these years and he thought he would see. But that day there came a storm that swept away every bridge in the county, and which washed away, too, whatever impression the extraordinary experiences in the arid regions had made upon the mind of Mr. Stephen Gizzbunkler.

"Thereafter until he died Mr. Gizzbunkler carried an umbrella always, as firm as ever in the belief that it would rain if he went out without one."—N.

PRESENTATION AT COURT.

What Happens to Any "Improper Person"—Her Sponsor's Punishment.

A morning journal, much given to romancing, announces that "the precautions taken by the lord chamberlain to preclude the possibility of anyone appearing at a drawing-room whose past will not bear the closest scrutiny, are yearly becoming more rigorous." This is a farrago of the purest fiction, says the London Truth. As a matter of fact, the lord chamberlain takes no "precautions" whatever, and it is difficult to conceive how this official could possibly investigate the antecedents of the hordes of nonentities who now go to court, unless he were provided with a large staff of detectives. All the responsibility of a presentation is now thrown upon the (presumably) "unimpeachable female" who undertakes it. If an "improper person" is presented, the immediate result is the arrival of a shoal of anonymous letters at the lord chamberlain's office. The lady who has made the presentation is then communicated with, and if the ultimate result is unsatisfactory she is punished by being herself excluded from the court for a year or two, or if it is a bad case she receives sentence of permanent banishment. Moreover, if a lady on the state ball or concert invitation list has been so indiscreet as to make an undesirable presentation, her name is struck off forever. It is only in very aggravated cases that presentations are publicly canceled in the Gazette. The usual course is for the lord chamberlain to inform the offender that her presentation took place "by mistake," and that she is to consider it as canceled. Episodes of this description are of frequent occurrence, but they are kept as secret as possible, for obvious reasons.

"A POT OF THE BEST CHAW."

The Earliest Mention of Tea in the Year 1615.

The earliest mention of tea by an Englishman is probably that contained in a letter from Mr. Wickham, an agent of the East India company, written from Firando, in Japan, on the 7th of June, 1615, to Mr. Eaton, another officer of the company, asking him to send "a pot of the best chaw," says Lippincott's. In Mr. Eaton's accounts of expenditure occurs this item: "Three silver porringers to drink chaw in."

It was not until the middle of the seventeenth century that the English began to use tea. The first importations were from Java and the price ranged from six to ten pounds sterling per pound. In the Mercurius Politicus of September, 1658, appears the following advertisement: "That excellent and by all physicians approved China drink, called by the Chineseas Tcha, by other nations tea, or tea, is sold at the Sultaness Head, a cophee-house in Sweetings Rents, by the Royal Exchange London."

Pepys enters in his diary on the 25th of September, 1660: "I did send for a cup of tea, a China drink, of which I had never drunk before." This is proof of the novelty of the drink in England at that date. In 1664 it is recorded that the East India company presented the king with two pounds and two ounces of "tea."

About this time, however, the consumption of tea and coffee became fashionable and the importations large in proportion.

COLORADO FISH HAVE LEGS.

Singular Creatures That Inhabit the Streams of the Centennial State.

Much consternation and still more wonder was created in the state house the other day, says the Denver Republican, by the discovery in the office of Mrs. Mary A. Shute, secretary of the state board of horticulture, of an axolotl, or fish with legs, which had become metamorphosed into a salamander. "All kinds of theories to account for its presence there were broached during the day. Of these theories the strangest appears to be the most tenable. This is that the evolved axolotl was taken up by evaporation from a mountain lake near the City of Mexico, where its species is most abundant, to come to earth again in Denver with the afternoon's abnormally heavy rainfall. In the morning when Janitor Smith opened the windows in order to air the office against the arrival of Mrs. Shute, he beheld an object on the sill outside which caused him to spring back in horror. Squatted on the sill was a hideous, dirty-hued green and yellow reptile, about ten inches in length, with a head like that of a bulldog, an enormous mouth, wide open, six web-footed paws and a tail that tapered to a lash and was curled at the end.

No Wonder People Die.

Is it to be wondered at that the common people of India are weak and unhealthy? Accounts say that in seasons when it is peculiarly scarce they drink the very water they have been bathing in; and that they inherit the practice from generations of forefathers. In many country districts there are 800 of them to the square mile—all living on what little rice they can produce on their miniature farms. Little wonder that they die by thousands, even when famine is not present; that all the minor diseases, as well as King Cholera, find them a good feeding ground. The gospel of hygiene should go along with every messenger of light that is sent there.—Everywhere.

Vegetarian Dress.

The members of the Women's Vegetarian union in London have a new craze. It is for vegetarian dress. They have concluded that it is as wrong to kill animals for clothes as for food. They want vegetable boots, vegetable gloves, vegetable gowns, and even vegetable note paper. They have decided that the kid, the calf and the sheep shall be spared, if their influence can do it.

Setting Out in Life! As well as in the thick of the battle, is a time when a man should be careful about neat and correct dressing. First impressions are half the victory. Who has a better chance, even in looking for a situation, than the young man whose attire is an evidence of taste, thrift and judgment? Young men who wish to prosper should order their Suits and Overcoats from M. BORN & CO., The Great Chicago Merchant Tailors, Now over 20 yrs. at the head of the Custom Trade. All ages can be suited. Style, fit and workmanship are guaranteed. The world's best looms supply the material. The Best is always The Most Economical. 800 NEW SELECTED PATTERNS TO ORDER FROM. CALL ON A. C. GIGER & CO., NEW YORK CASH STORE

THE WEEKLY INTER OCEAN. LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY POLITICAL PAPER IN THE WEST. It is radically Republican, advocating the cardinal doctrines of that party with ability and earnestness. But it can always be relied on for fair and honest reports of all political movements. THE WEEKLY INTER OCEAN SUPPLIES ALL THE NEWS AND BEST CURRENT LITERATURE. It is Morally Clean and as a Family Paper is Without a Peer. The Literature of its columns is equal to that of the best magazines. It is interesting to the children as well as the parents. THE INTER OCEAN is a WESTERN NEWSPAPER, and while it brings to the family THE NEWS OF THE WORLD and gives its readers the best and ablest discussions of all questions of the day, it is in full sympathy with the ideas and aspirations of Western people and discusses literature and politics from the Western standpoint. \$1.00—PRICE ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR—\$1.00. THE DAILY AND SUNDAY EDITIONS OF THE INTER OCEAN ARE BEST OF THEIR KIND. Price of Daily by mail \$4.00 per year. Price of Sunday by mail \$2.00 per year. Daily and Sunday by mail \$6.00 per year. Twice-a-Week Chronicle and Weekly Inter Ocean for one year \$1.85

NEWS NOTES.

Portland merchants claim to have done the largest Christmas business of any season for many years.

Advices received today state that H. E. Bart is to be the next president of the Union Pacific.

The Overman Wheel Company, one of the largest concerns in the country, failed yesterday.

Martin Quinn, the populist leader in Portland, will resign his position in the spring to go to Alaska.

Friday, which will witness the close of the great Leiter deal in wheat on the Chicago board of trade, bids fair to be a memorable one in the trade. No great excitement is expected in the wheat pit, but in oats a squeeze of shorts may occur.

An inspired organ published at Berlin, says the Chinese emperor, in order to avoid the reproach of having lost territory, will lease Kaio Chou to Germany in perpetuity at a very low rate, with all the rights of sovereignty exercised by England at Hong Kong.

Don't bolt your food, it irritates your stomach. Choose digestible food and chew it. Indigestion is a dangerous sickness. Proper care prevents it. Shaker Digestive Cordial cures it. That is the long and short of indigestion. Now, the question is: Have you got indigestion? Yes, if you have pain or discomfort after eating, headache, dizziness, nausea, offensive breath, heartburn, languor, weakness, fever, jaundice, flatulence, loss of appetite, irritability, constipation, etc. Yes, you have indigestion. To cure it, take Shaker Digestive Cordial. The medicinal herbs and plants of which Shaker Digestive Cordial is composed, help to digest the food in your stomach. When your stomach is strong, care will keep it so. Shaker Digestive Cordial is for sale by druggists; price 10 cents to \$1.00 per bottle.

The Bowling Contest.

In the four games of the bowling contest played at the club alleys last night, the Umatilla House team won for the second time the palm of victory by a larger number of points than on Saturday afternoon. The totals for each of the four games were as follows: Umatilla Club 213..... First Game..... 209 217..... Second Game..... 205 255..... Third Game..... 233 219..... Fourth Game..... 187 Making an average of 904 for the Umatilla House and 834 for the club, and according to this the Umatilla House has a victory of seventy pins to their credit.

A Wildcat Scare.

Kingsley, Dec. 24, 1897.

EDITOR CHRONICLE: I wish to report a little excitement that occurred at the ranch of Mr. Remi Rondeau of this place. The excitement was caused by a wildcat coming into the yard, entering the woodshed and swiping a chicken. Mrs. Rondeau and the children scared him and he let the chicken drop, but stood his ground. Seeing his stubbornness, Mrs. Rondeau sent one of the children after a notable

nimrod who lived close by. In the meantime the wildcat proceeded to get another chicken. Just then the hunter arrived on the scene with his dog, but without his gun. The dog did his duty by running the cat up a tree. In the house was an old gun, some powder and caps, but no bullets. Here the hunter was equal to the occasion, and going into the pantry took the lead lining out of a tea box, rolled it into a bullet, and downed the cat the first shot. It was reported to be a very large one, measuring over three feet from tip to tip. The writer was not there, but wonders if one of the neighbor's cats in not missing. M. A. Business Announcement.

I take pleasure in announcing to my friends and patrons that George H. Dufur has this day associated himself with me in the business heretofore conducted by me. The new firm will hereafter be known as Dufur & Dufur, and transact all business under said name. Our aim will be in the future, as it has been in the past, to give entire satisfaction in all matters brought to us, and to treat each and everyone alike. I desire to thank my many friends and customers for their liberal patronage in the past, and solicit a continuance of the same with the new firm in the future. Dated this 27th of December, 1897. Respectfully, D. S. DUFUR

BUCKNER'S ARCADE SAIVE. The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Blakeley and Houghton, druggists.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received by the county court for keeping the county charges by the week for the ensuing year. All bids must be filed with the clerk on or before the 5th day of January, 1898, at 9 o'clock a. m. Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids. A. M. KELSA, County Clerk.

TILLET & GALLIGAN, WM. TILLET, H. GALLIGAN, Sole Proprietors of the CELEBRATED XARIMA APPLE.

Hood River Nursery, TILLET & GALLIGAN, Proprietors, First-class Nursery Stock a Specialty. B. S. HUNTINGTON & WILSON, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, THE DALLES, OREGON, Office over First Nat. Bank. FRED. W. WILSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW, THE DALLES, OREGON, Office over First Nat. Bank.