

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

General News of the Industrial and Educational Development and Progress of Rural Communities, Public Institutions, Etc.

STONE MAY REPLACE WOOD

Discovery of Quarries May Cause Shanties to Disappear.

Silver Lake—Stone houses may replace the regulation two-room shanties which now form the abodes of homesteaders on virtually every quarter section in Christmas Lake and Silver Lake valleys. This is made possible by the discovery by F. R. Bass of a half dozen stone quarries on the side of Table Mountain. Table Mountain and the Connolly hills divide the two valleys and the quarries are easily accessible from either side of the slope.

The substance uncovered by Mr. Bass appears to be stone in the making. It is a mixture of clay and sand, which, although not moist, hardens like cement when exposed to the air. It is easily sawed or chiseled out in cubes of the proper size for building purposes.

Old-timers of the valley say there are similar quarries to the south and north of the town of Silver Lake. No stone has been taken from these diggings for so many years that their location was almost forgotten until Mr. Bass made the discovery on Table Mountain.

The fireplace, chimneys and foundation of the old house on the SO ranch, owned by "Hi" Adams, of Portland, were built of stone taken from one of these workings; the same is true of the buildings on the UR ranch, owned by William H. Hayes, of California; also the Chrisman and Martin homes in the town of Silver Lake. But all of these buildings were constructed a quarter of a century ago. New settlers have erected chimneys of stovewood, sheet iron or tile, imported at considerable expense.

The quarries found by Mr. Bass are within the Fremont national forest reserve and already several homesteaders at the foot of Table Mountain are preparing to build stone houses.

RABBITS DESTROYING CROPS

Christmas Lake Outlook is Fine But for Work of Rodents.

Ficksburg—The fine outlook in Christmas Lake valley for crops this year, will depend upon the state government of Oregon. Rabbits have done much damage, and at the rate of increase noticeable, before harvest time comes there will be little to garner unless strenuous methods are adopted to inculcate the rodents. The Ficksburg Development club hopes to be able to secure the assistance of the state veterinarian or some competent official from the State Agricultural college to start the good work.

The area sown to grain and other products shows a considerable increase over any season in the history of this new country, but the rabbit plague seems to keep abreast of the settlers. Drives were held in various sections during the past winter, but owing to the large area necessary to be covered, they proved failures from an extermination standpoint, as the animals would escape in such numbers that it seems hopeless to finish them in this manner. It is rumored that unless something is done, various settlers may take the matter into their own hands and inoculate the rodents with some disease that may be dangerous to man and beast if it gets abroad. The need being great and from people that will suffer greatly if their crops are destroyed, it is believed the state will co-operate and the inoculation process be carried on in a manner that will insure the destruction of the animals doing the damage, and at the same time safeguard the settlers and their livestock.

Three Camps to Employ 125.

Coquille—The Smith-Powers Logging company, one of the largest concerns of its kind on the Coast, is making preparations to open two camps three miles above this city, where it has about 50,000,000 feet of timber. The right of way for a logging railroad to extend two miles into the timber from the main line is now being cleared and the road will be constructed forthwith. The logs will go to the C. A. Smith sawmill at Marshfield. Aason Bros. have entered into a contract to log 18,000,000 feet of timber immediately adjoining Coquille on the east for the Coquille Mill & Mercantile company, of this city, and they are now extending their logging road to the timber. The three camps will give employment to about 125 men.

Referendum Bill Unconstitutional.

Salem—Circuit Judge Galloway has decided that the Day bill, providing for a special election for referendum measures next November, is unconstitutional. The decision is far from clearing the situation. The decision was in connection with one declining to compel the secretary of state to file petitions for reference of the bill regulating the practice of dentistry. Judge Galloway held that the petitions were irregular in that they did not contain a copy of the bill, but only the caption.

Washington Crops Promising.

Hillsboro—Never in the history of Washington county have grain and grass crops been so promising at this season of the year. Farmers are now preparing for clover harvest three weeks in advance of former years. In doing this they hope to evade the late June rains, and get a good harvest, in August. Last year many farmers netted \$35 per acre for clover seed.

FARMING COURSE FOR NOVEMBER

O. A. C. Summer School to Teach Rudiments to Beginners.

A course in basic agronomy to be given by Dr. M. M. McCool at the Oregon Agricultural college summer session is planned to introduce the novice to farm science through an intimate first knowledge of the soil, the crops, and the mechanics of the farm. A part of the instruction will give an introduction to agriculture as a science through a wide range of scientific study and investigation in fields still unexplored, or to the beginner in the business practice and the professional opportunities of farming.

The work includes instruction in the origin and formation of soils; moisture, heat and air; common processes; plant foods and soil fertility; tillage, crop rotation and manuring; soil bacteria; drainage and irrigation benefits; and the use and care of common farm machines. A brief survey of the agriculture of the state will close the course.

Another important agronomy course for the summer is that in crop production by Prof. George Hyslop. In the chief field crop seeds of Oregon will be studied, such as wheat, barley, oats, corn, vetch, clover, alfalfa, grasses, as to their vitality, germination, preservation, growth and reproduction. Some work in seed judging will be done, and seed beds and sowing will be studied. The relation of climate and soil to crops, culture, rotation, the prevention and eradication of weeds, and the harvesting, marketing and profits of crops will give some consideration. Two subjects of immediate importance will be discussed: The distribution of value to the state of various crops and the methods of improving them.

RAISING OF FLAX IS URGENT

Speaker Tells Threshermen of Profitable Industry.

Portland—Thousands of dollars are added to the annual earnings of the threshermen of Oregon by the development of the flax industry in the state, according to H. A. Brewer, manager of the Portland Lined Oil company who was one of the speakers at the banquet of the State Threshermen association at the Commercial club recently.

"The lined factories of the state are prepared to handle the product of 25,000 acres of flax in this state, the people will only plant it," he said. "Taking the prices paid for threshing in other states, the threshermen should be able to get from 20 to 25 cents a bushel for the threshing of flax and they would be able to handle the flax crops without in the least being interfered with in their work on regular grain crops."

Forestry Builds Station.

Prairie City—The forestry service has ordered a telephone line to be installed connecting Prairie City with the summit of Strawberry Peak, 15 miles distant from this place. A station will be erected on the extreme summit of the peak at a height over 10,000 feet, which overlooks the entire forestry district of Eastern Oregon.

The purpose of the government in establishing this station is to establish lookout stations there to notify points of the reserve in the event of fires.

Work on the telephone line and station has been commenced. From Prairie City there is telephone connection with all points in this reserve.

Tri-County Fair Dates Set.

Condon—The Tri-County Fair will be held in Condon this fall on October 1, 2 and 3, according to the decision of the executive committee in a special meeting held Tuesday night. The County fair is to be a permanent yearly event in Condon henceforth, as the directors have decided to purchase the large grand stand, chicken coop, etc., from the Mayville Fair association, which disbanded recently to join Condon in making the Tri-County a big success.

The local fair grounds, which were improved last year for the first Tri-County fair, will be still better improved since the purchase.

Films to Show Interior.

Central Oregon now is to be shown to the world in motion pictures. Peculiar industries and its varied activities have been made the subject of a series of films that will be displayed wherever motion-picture theaters are operated and patronized by Lloyd W. McDowell, publicity agent for the Great Northern railway, who just returned from a trip through the interior with about 3000 feet of big class films. The pictures were made by a representative of the Pathé Weekly service.

First Pension Is Granted.

Hood River—The County court has just granted the first pension on the widows' pension bill enacted in the last session of the legislature. The recipient, however, is not a widow, but her husband is a permanent invalid, being afflicted with paralysis. The woman and her three children will receive \$17.50 a month. The court has received applications for relief from more than a dozen widows.

WILD RIDE ON RUNAWAY CAR

Brakeman Makes 65 Miles Per Hour, But Sticks to Post.

Medford, Or.—With his lantern swinging in a brave attempt to warn the people, J. A. Fowler, an Ashland yard man, came through Medford Thursday night at 75 miles an hour on top of a runaway freight car. With the wires busy clearing the right of way, a switch engine in charge of Engineer Adams in wild pursuit and a doctor motoring to the scene of the expected tragedy, the car by a miracle escaped collision with a freight train at Central Point, as it hastened into a siding safely, and made the sharp curves at Gold Ray and finally came to a stop one mile this side of Gold Hill.

Some idea of the speed of the runaway car may be had from the fact that the car slipped loose from the train at Ashland at 9:50 and reached Medford, a distance of 12 miles, down grade, at 10:01, a run of 11 minutes, or an average of 65 miles an hour. The pursuing engine made the distance in 15 minutes, half of the scheduled time, but lost sight of the runaway at Talent.

Fowler was pretty well shaken up by his experience, but said he was too busy swinging his lantern and keeping his balance to think much about his danger.

JAPAN TO STAND ON TREATY

Fourteenth Amendment Omitted From Land Bill Protest.

Tokio—It is learned that Japan has decided to omit from the text of its rejoinder to the American government's reply to the protest against the California alien land law the contention that it violates the 14th amendment, and leave this point for discussion between Viscount Chinda, the Japanese ambassador at Washington, and Secretary of State Bryan.

The reason for this decision was the conviction that Japan's case as a nation would be stronger if based on the contention that the land bill violates the treaty. The idea here is that the 14th amendment, as well as the constitutional prohibition against states passing laws impairing obligation contracts, might eventually be the basis of suits brought by Japanese as individuals.

HOME RULE BILL IS PASSED

English Commons Scene of Fiery Denunciation.

London—The house of commons passed the second reading of the home rule for Ireland bill without division, an amendment by Mr. Balfour for the rejection of the measure having been defeated previously by a vote of 368 to 270. The announcement of the figures was received with cheering by Liberals and Nationalists.

The debate was marked by fiery declarations by the opposition speakers who predicted home rule would result in civil war in Ireland. Sir Edwards Carson, the Irish Unionist leader, said:

"For my part, I will continue to support the Ulster men and will take full responsibility for their resistance. You may seize their homes, or send troops, but you will not settle the Irish question."

Lord Charles Beresford declared: "If the government sends troops to Ireland, I shall offer my services, poor as they may be, and help my fellow countrymen."

Jones Blocks Senate.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Jones, of Washington, who has failed thus far to secure from the senate the extra clerk he declares necessary, got on the nerves of his Democratic colleagues when he engineered his single-handed filibuster through another session.

"Here we sit, the sworn representatives of 90,000,000 people," said Senator Williams, "trying to transact the important business of the country, and all we hear is the hoarse voice of the senator from Washington crying 'Jones wants clerks; Jones wants clerks.'"

Maryland Sails North.

Seattle—The armored cruiser Maryland sailed for Alaska to complete the tests of Alaska coal begun last year, and interrupted when the vessel was hurried south under rush orders to take Secretary of State Knox to Japan to attend the emperor's funeral. Eight hundred tons of Bering river coal have been mined and transported to Controller bay for use in the tests by the Maryland. The cruiser is expected to return from the North early in August.

Ferry Sinks; Fifty Drown.

St. Petersburg—Fifty persons were drowned by the sinking of a dilapidated ferryboat while crossing the River Tehepta on the Russian Ascension day, June 5, according to delayed dispatches from Vyatka. A riot ensued in the populace of the district, owing to their indignation at the laxity of the police supervision of the ferry.

Throwing of Bomb Fatal.

Lisbon, Portugal—One person was killed and several others wounded by a bomb thrown at a procession in honor of Portugal's great epic and lyric poet, Luis de Camoens. The bomb-thrower was wounded by a splinter from his own missile. When taken to the hospital he declared that he wished to commit suicide.

Atwood Flies Over Lake Erie.

Sandusky, O.—Aviator Harry N. Atwood, who left Ecorse, Mich., Wednesday afternoon for a flight across Lake Erie to this city in a hydro-aeroplane, arrived here at 12:30 o'clock Thursday morning.

hands through his hair with a quick, nervous movement.

"You've caught my clever friend, I see. Kindly go through his pockets. Will you? He has something I must ask him to return to me."

We found it in Jackson's pocket-book—a cheque, antedated a week, for five thousand pounds, with a covering letter to the manager of the bank. Ford took the bit of stamped paper, twisting it to and fro in his supple fingers.

"It was smart of you, Jackson," he said, addressing the bowed figure before him. "I give you credit for the idea. To kidnap a man just as he was bringing off a big deal—well, you would have earned the money."

"But how did you get down here?" struck in the manager.

"He told me that he had discovered an old hiding-place—a 'priest's hole' he called it, and I walked into the trap as the best man may do sometimes. As we got to the bottom of that stairway he slipped a sack over my head, and had me fixed in thirty seconds. He fed me himself twice a day, standing by to see I didn't holla. When I paid up he was to have twenty-four hours' start; then he would let you know where I was. I held out awhile, but I gave in tonight. The delay was getting too dangerous. Have you a cigarette, Harbord? Thank you. And who may you be?"

It was to the detective he spoke.

"My name is Peace, Inspector Addington Peace, from Scotland Yard."

"And I owe my rescue to you?"

The little man bowed.

"You will have no reason to regret it. And what did you think had become of me, Inspector?"

"It was the general opinion that you had taken to yourself wings, Mr. Ford."

It was as we traveled up to town next day that Peace told me his story. I will set it down as briefly as may be.

"I soon came to the conclusion that Ford, whether dead or alive, was inside the grounds of Meudon Hall. If he had bolted, for some reason, by-the-way, which was perfectly incomprehensible, a man of his ability would not have left a broad trail across the center of his lawn for all to see. There was, moreover, no trace of him that our men could ferret out at any station within reasonable distance. A motor was possible, but there were no marks of its presence next morning in the slush of the roads. That fact I learnt from a curious groom who had aided in the search, and who, with a similar idea upon him, had carefully examined the highway at daybreak.

"When I clambered to the top of the wall I found that the snow upon the coping had been dislodged. I traced the marks, as you saw, for about a dozen yards. Where they ended I, too, dropped to the ground outside. There I made a remarkable discovery. Upon a little drift of snow that lay in the shallow ditch beneath were more footprints. But they were not those of Ford. They were the marks of long and narrow boots, and led into the road, where they were lost in the track of a flock of sheep that had been driven over it the day before.

"I took a careful measurement of those footprints. They might, of course, belong to some private investigator; but they gave me an idea. Could some man have walked across the lawn in Ford's boots, changed them to his own on the top of the wall, and so departed? Was it the desire of some one to let it be supposed that Ford had run away?"

"When I examined Ford's private rooms I was even more fortunate. From the bootbox I discovered that the master had three pairs of shooting-boots. There were three pairs in the stand. Some one had made a very serious mistake. Instead of hiding the pair he had used on the lawn, he had returned them to their place. The trick was becoming evident. But where was Ford? In the house or grounds, dead or alive, but where?"

"I was able, through my friend the bootbox, to examine the boots on the night of our arrival. My measurements corresponded with those that Jackson, the valet, wore. Was he acting for himself, or was Harbord, or even Ransom, in the secret? That, too, it was necessary to discover before I showed my hand.

"Your story of Harbord's midnight excursion supplied a clue. The secretary had evidently followed some man who had disappeared mysteriously. Could there be the entrance to a secret chamber in that corridor? That would explain the mystification of Harbord as well as the disappearance of Silas Ford. If so Harbord was not involved.

"If Ford were held a prisoner he must be fed. His gaoler must of necessity remain in the house. But the trick I set in the suggested journey to town was an experiment singularly unsuccessful, for all the three men I desired to test refused. However, if I were right about the secret chamber I could checkmate the blackmailer by keeping a watch on him from your room, which commanded the line of communications. But Jackson was clever enough to leave his victimizing to the night-time. I scattered the flour to try the result of that ancient trick. It was successful. That is all. Do you follow me?"

"Yes," said I; "but how did Jackson come to know the secret hiding-place?"

"He has long been a servant of the house. You had better ask his old master."

(CHRONICLES TO BE CONTINUED.)

DOLL-MAKING AN INDIAN ART

Marvelous Miniatures Are Those Turned Out by Clever Aborigines of Mexico.

It is thought that the tiniest dolls are those made by Mexican Indians. They are barely three-fourths of an inch long in many cases, but are nevertheless perfect in detail.

The method of manufacture is as follows: First there is a diminutive framework of wire. This is then wound with fine silk thread until the proper figure has been secured. The costumes are then cut according to the character of the doll, and fitted to it.

With needles that can scarcely be held in the fingers, needles of which the eyes are almost invisible, various designs are embroidered on the dolls' clothes with the finest of silk threads. So cleverly do the Indians execute these designs that even through a powerful glass the details appear to be perfect, although the work is accomplished without the aid of any enlarging device.

Once properly dressed, the doll is given its hair. Even to the details of braids and ribbons this work is carried out. Then there are formed the eyes, nose, mouth, hands and feet.

In Mexico these dolls are sold for ridiculously small sums. It takes about two hours of painstaking labor to make one of the simplest of the manikins.

Some dolls are provided with tiny baskets of flowers, fancy sombreros, water jars and other paraphernalia. The baskets are made of hair by the Indians of Guanajuato. The bits of pottery are made of clay, in exact imitation of the practical sites. All these accessories are sewed to the dolls.

Miniature roses are embroidered in the costumes of the dancing girls and ornaments are arranged in their hair. Wreaths of flowers are hung about the shoulders and the arms are formed in graceful and life-like attitudes of dancing. The matador is complete in every particular—his costume being gayly decorated in many colors, the hair dressed in true Spanish fashion, including the conventional queue.

How She Knew.

Mrs. Shopper—How do you like my new oriental rug?

Mrs. Hopper (scanning the rug critically)—Are you sure it is oriental?

Mrs. Shopper—Sure! Why, I stood by just as it was being finished by a Turk or an Armenian or a Persian—I don't know which.—Judge.

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MADE AN UNEXPECTED HIT

Mark Sheridan, With an Act Not on the Bill, Convulsed an English Audience.

One often has amusing experiences, the humor of which only strikes one afterward. Such a one occurred to me a number of years ago, at a very small hall in the provinces, where the stage accommodation was so limited and of such a primitive kind that some of us had to use the back of the stage as a dressing room, our abutions after the show being sometimes performed in a common or garden bucket placed on a chair. One night—it was winter, and the audience was almost as chilly as the weather—I had finished my turn, and stripped to the waist, was "abutting" violently in the old tin basin, when somebody made a mistake, and instead of lowering the curtain, the back sheet was pulled up, disclosing me to view.

As I had my back in that direction, I did not at first realize what had happened, and hearing shrieks of laughter, I remarked, through the folds of the towel in which my face was buried:

"My word, somebody's making a hit!"

Getting no reply, I looked up, to discover that my erstwhile companions had vanished, and that, with dripping mane, I was standing in full view of the audience!

I was pressed very much, immediately afterward, to enter for the hundred yards in the following year's theatrical sports, as it was thought that I might establish a record.—Mark Sheridan, in Strand Magazine.

Profession of Motherhood.

It is a difficult profession—the profession of motherhood. In the animal kingdom, as the offspring grow older, the parents withdraw their ministrations, but in the human family the older the children grow the more diplomacy and enthusiasm is needed by the ruling spirits. When the boys begin to get unruly and the girls begin to get silly—as the husband gets less ready to make an effort and more willing to sit quietly by the fire in the evening—then it is that many a family drifts apart. But the mother can have no holiday. She must always be on tap. The only difference is that as the children grow older she must pretend that it is they and not she who are managing affairs.—Agnes Edwards Rothery, in the Home Progress Magazine.