

OUR COUNTY . . . Correspondents

Jacksonville News. Miss Alice Mathews, of Gold Hill, is visiting friends here. The public schools will re-open January 4, after a two weeks' vacation. Married—Dec. 24, by Joel Milton, G. F. Wright and Miss Lillian Pyburn. Mrs. James and daughter, of East Portland, are the guests of Mrs. E. R. Neil. B. B. Beckman, a prominent lawyer of Portland is paying his old home here a visit. Grandma Hoffman has been quite ill during the week but was reported somewhat better today. Mr. and Mrs. Miles Cantral and Mrs. John Devlin, spent Christmas in Jacksonville with friends. Married—In Jacksonville, Dec. 28, by R. S. Dunlap, J. P., A. G. George and Martha J. West. D. L. Curtis and wife, of Indiana, former residents of this place, are to return, so we are informed, and reside here. Misses Lizzie and Pauline Reuter went to Ashland Tuesday to visit the daughters of ex-Sheriff Patterson for a few days. A. Bettingen, of The Dalles, is spending the week in Jacksonville. His daughter is one of the teachers in St. Marys Academy. Dean Tatom, a merchant of Monmouth, is spending the holidays with Southern Oregon friends, and is the guest of R. J. Cameron and family. Miss Kate Lemberger has returned from a protracted stay in Portland where she was under treatment for her eyes. She gained much relief and is able to attend to official duties. Died—At the family residence in Jacksonville, Dec. 28, 1896, Madison Obenchain, a native of Linn county, Iowa, aged fifty years ten months and twenty-nine days. Mr. Obenchain has been an invalid for the past three years caused by softening of the brain, and his death was a relief as all the medical aid procurable could not have cured him. Mr. Obenchain was a man of good qualities and well liked by all with whom he had any dealings. He leaves a wife and one son, who is engaged in the stock business in Klamath county. The funeral took place Tuesday at two o'clock under the auspices of Warren lodge, No. 10, A. F. & A. M. Services were held at the residence by Rev. Robt. Ennis. The court house was crowded on Christmas eve with parents and children who had assembled to enjoy the Christmas tree exercises. The following program was observed. Opening chorus, by school; prayer and remarks, Rev. J. M. Shulze; recitation, Miss Theresa Bryan; song, three little girls; recitation, Bessie Kenney; music, by the band; recitation, Miss Marie Andrews; solo and chorus, fifteen school girls; music, by the band. A large Christmas tree was very prettily trimmed and lighted and appropriate mottoes were placed above the tree. Santa Claus made his appearance and gave to every child in the house a bag of candy and nuts and an orange. No presents besides these were distributed so all shared equal. The committee tried to remember every child in the town and if any were overlooked they failed to hear of them. The citizens very generously contributed toward the tree, and in this way the children were made happy, in fact, it was the most satisfactorily arranged public Christmas tree ever held in the town. A grand Christmas festival was given Thursday evening at the club room by the children of the Eastern Star members, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Shepherd. The room was tastily decorated with evergreens and bright red berries. The program consisted of

"Mend it or End it," has been the rallying cry of reform, directed against abuses municipal or social. For the man who lets himself be abused by a cough the cry should be modified to: Mend it, or it'll end you. You can mend any cough with Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

the cantata entitled "Mother Goose's Christmas Party," which was interspersed with songs and recitations. The following participated in the cast: Mother Goose, Mrs. C. F. Shepherd; Mother Hubbard, Edith Priest; Queen of Hearts, Helen Colvig; Bo Peep, Nellie Reames; Cinderella, Agnes Love; Miss Muffit, Mary DeBar; Little Red Riding Hood, Maggie Krause; King Cole, George Merritt; Little Boy Blue, Ernest Elmer; Jack Horner, Robbie Ennis; Tom Tucker, Earl Shepherd; Simple Simon, Albert Elmer; Brownies, Don Colvig, Don Cameron, Vivian Beach and Bryant DeBar; Uncle Sam, Kale Shepherd; Mark Hanna, Vance Colvig; Fairies, Eula Jacobs and Zela White; Santa Claus, Prof. C. F. Shepherd. At the conclusion of the performance a colored light illuminated the stage and a beautiful bedecked Christmas tree, after which the distribution of presents took place. Every one present enjoyed themselves.

Central Point Items. Dr. J. Hinkle was at Medford Tuesday—business. Joseph Boswell was in Medford Tuesday on a business trip. W. A. Owens is spending the week with relatives at Medford. E. L. Moore made Jacksonville a business trip the last of the week. There are quite a number of our citizens attending court this week. John Downing made Medford a business trip the first of the week. Dr. W. B. Officer, of Eagle Point, spent several days here last week. Chas. Cowles, of Newton, Iowa, is paying relatives of this county a visit. Dr. E. P. Geary, of Medford, made our city a professional call on Monday. Perry Ellis, our photographer, made Medford a business trip on Saturday. J. R. Williams and daughter made Medford a business trip one day this week. Jacob Hughes, of Medford precinct, made friends at this place a visit last Sunday. Mrs. J. W. Merritt and Mrs. J. H. Downing were in Medford upon business last week. Elder A. J. Stevens, of Talent, preached at the Baptist church last Sunday to a large audience. Miss Julia Fielder, one of the teachers in Ashland college, is spending the holidays at home. The entertainment given by the school on the 23rd was much of a success and a credit to both teachers and pupils. The masquerade ball at the hotel hall Christmas night was largely attended, there being about thirty couples masked. Miss Noah Sydow, who is attending the Normal school at Ashland this winter, is spending the week with her parents here. Miss Cora Bedford, who has been spending several weeks in this city, was called to her home at Woodville last week by the illness of her mother. W. C. Owens and Miss Lula Lee were united in the holy bonds of wedlock on Dec. 24th, at the residence of Hon. J. W. Merritt. Rev. Ennis, Presbyterian minister of Jacksonville, performed the ceremony. Only relative and a few intimate friends were present. We acknowledge a call from Dr. J. Hinkle, of Central Point, who has just returned from a professional visit to Waldo. From the doctor we learn that his ledge on the West Fork of Sardinia creek still shows up well. This ledge is 3 1/2 feet in width and quite rich. The development consists of an 100-foot tunnel, run in about 300 feet below the summit of the hill. There are about fifty tons of ore on the dump at present.—Oregon Mining Journal.

Gold Hill Nuggets. BY OBSERVER. A happy new year to all connected with THE MEDFORD MAIL. Joshua Neathammer, of Evans Creek, was in Gold Hill Tuesday on business. Miss Etta Moore, of Sams Valley, spent the holidays in Gold Hill with her sister, Mrs. T. J. Hougham. The little strangers who arrived at Gold Hill recently are: At the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Wheeler, on December 12th, a boy; at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Z. Baird, on December 23rd, a ten pound boy. We are sorry to learn that Mr. Wm. Hefner, while feeding his horses at the Olsen Bros. saw mill, about one mile south of town, on Monday night had three ribs broken in his left side by one of the horses kicking him. Gold Hill has now, for the first time in its existence, a first class drug store with a druggist that can fill a prescription. C. Allison & Co. is the name of the firm and Mr.

Rain of Sheridan, Yamhill county, is the manager and druggist. We are glad to say that the old man Richards, familiarly called "Uncle Dan", is able to sit up again although still confined to his room. He has been suffering all the fall with a tumor in his stomach and while in Portland the first of December, where he and F. M. Parker were called as witnesses in the U. S. court in the Elda Woods stage robbing case, he contracted a severe cold that put him to bed on his return home. After suffering for several days, on the 13th of December the tumor in his stomach broke, which gave him great relief but left him almost exhausted. Dr. Johnson, late of Iowa, but now located in Gold Hill, is treating him and is now absorbing two tumors in his left side. Mr. F. Churchill, editor and proprietor of the Marion County Record, published at Amsville, left for his home Sunday evening. Mr. C. comes highly recommended and certainly made a favorable impression on the citizens of Gold Hill. After spending some time in Southern Oregon looking for a location to publish his paper, he selected Gold Hill as the place, and after renting a suitable building for the purpose, left us, to return about the 20th of January, 1897, with his family, printing plant and baggage to become one of us. He expects to get out the first issue of his paper February 1st. The paper will be called The Gold Hill News. We bespeak for the gentleman a good living if he works for the interest of the town and has no "pets". Talent Whispers. BY F. SHARP. They tell me that they had a fine social dance at the U. M. L. Hall Christmas eve, and that muddy as the roads were, about thirty-five tickets were sold and netted about forty dollars. Mrs. M. H. Coleman has about recovered from a severe spell of fever. Mrs. H. H. Goddard had a severe attack of rheumatism on Christmas day, she, however, is recovering. Ashland whiskey caused some of our Talent boys to cut up high pranks. The boys had the honor to toe the mark and pay the damages, saving exposure and further cost.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY. —Unmanufactured wool was last year sent abroad to the amount of 4,279,109 pounds, valued at \$484,463. —Dried apples were in demand last year in Europe. 7,085,946 pounds of the American product going there, for which \$461,214 was returned to this country. —Maine may have to provide this year's crop of "sardines," as the French sardine box solderers have gone on strike just as the fishing season opened. They object to the employment of women and of labor-saving machinery. —Plans are well under way for the expending of \$9,000,000 on the canals of New York state, for which the people voted at the last election by a majority of 243,505, and it is expected that the work will be done in the next two or three years. —It is said that Dr. Max Wolf, of Heidelberg, who has discovered a number of asteroids, has never directly seen an asteroid. His discoveries have been made from the photographic plates, on which the planets appear as short lines, owing to their motion, while stars are shown as points. —A serious source of loss of the precious metals is in the attrition of coins. It is estimated that a gold coin of the value of ten dollars will lose from one to three grains of its weight in five years, and that a silver dollar will lose ten per cent. of its weight in the same time. This loss, of course, is irretrievable. —Many insects can fly faster than birds. The common house fly can ordinarily fly 25 feet a second. But when it is alarmed it has been found that it can increase its rate of speed to over 160 feet per second. If it could continue such rapid flight for a mile in a straight line it would cover that distance in exactly 33 seconds. —Friedrich August Kekule, professor of chemistry at the University of Bonn, who has just died at the age of 77 years, by the discovery of the tetratomic character of carbon established the basis for the modern theory of chemical combinations. The paper describing this discovery and Kekule's later paper on the theory of benzole are the most important speculative works in chemistry of this generation. —The Humming Bird's Rain Signal. One of the curious things about the humming bird is that when rain begins to threaten, the little creature shoots up into the air a hundred feet above the ground, poises there for a moment, and then dashes down with a whirring sound that is as loud as the whirr of a partridge. This noise is apparently a signal, as when it is heard the other birds in the vicinity seek cover.—Golden Days. —Nature is Resting. Not an island has risen or sunk from sight in the Pacific ocean in 34 years, and geologists say that nature is resting for a future mighty effort. A geologist predicts that within 50 years a convulsion of nature will sink the whole of New Zealand 50 feet below the surface of the sea.—N. Y. Sun.

NEW ROUTE TO EUROPE. Proposed Construction of a Waterway Through Hudson Bay. It Would Lessen the Distance from St. Paul to Liverpool 870 Miles and Be of Immense Advantage to the Shipping Interests. The distance of the great wheat fields of the northwest from the Atlantic seaboard, and the consequent expense of putting the agricultural products of that great prairie country on the European market, has long seemed to be an unsurmountable difficulty. While navigation is open on the great lakes the cost of transportation is greatly lessened, but even with the advantage of this inland waterway the outlay of shipping a bushel of wheat to Liverpool has been, during the past few years, equal to the price paid for a bushel at points in Dakota and Manitoba, which means that for every bushel of wheat that the farmer puts on the European market he must have the value of another bushel to get it there. The cause of this is that, whether by lake or rail, the wheat has to be carried from the west to this city, a distance in some cases of 11,000 miles. These freight rates, which are not by any means high for the distance, make the difference between profit and loss to the farmer. This evil is to be overcome by what is called the new idea. It is not new, by any means, for it has been used by the Hudson Bay company for over 200 years; it was the route that the early settlers on the Red river of the north took when they started the Red River colony in 1812, and as it has been, and is still, to a certain extent, used to this day, it is evidently not impracticable. For four months of winter ice prevents navigation, but it freezes up later in the fall and thaws earlier in the spring than Lake Superior. The route itself is from Port Nelson to the mouth of the Nelson river, through the Hudson straits, via Cape Farewell to the north coast of Ireland, and thence to Liverpool or Glasgow; and Port Nelson is to be connected with the wheat fields and cattle ranges by means of railway from Winnipeg, Man., which is less than 400 miles from the bay. It may be asked: "Why was this not all thought of before?" The answer is simple. Until the year 1870 the whole of what is now the Canadian province of Manitoba and British northwest territories was controlled by the Hudson Bay company, and as their sole object was to supply the world with fur, it was distinctly to their interest to exaggerate the dangers of the waters of the bay, and in fact do anything that would retard immigration to their preserves. But now things have changed. The Hudson Bay company's rights were purchased by the dominion government in 1870 for about \$25,000,000 worth of land, and in 1880, ten years later, a charter was granted to the Nelson River company, who are now building a railway which will, in the course of a few years, bring Winnipeg within 36 hours' railway journey to the sea. By this route St. Paul and Minneapolis would be only 750 miles from the ocean. What does this mean? A saving of nearly 750 miles as compared with the distance to New York. This applies equally, of course, to points west, and even more to points north and northwest of the twin-cities. Further, the distance from Port Nelson to Liverpool is 2,926 miles, while it is 3,049 from New York to the same place, showing a difference in favor of the bay route of 123 miles. So that the difference of the two routes from St. Paul to Liverpool, via New York, and via the Hudson bay, shows the latter to be shorter by nearly 870 miles. This great northern waterway is not, however, without some drawbacks; for instance, during four months it cannot be used, but owing to the fact that the bay does not freeze until October the western farmer, with his early harvest, could get most of his grain off his hands and shipped before that time, and such of his produce as he could not get to the seaboard in time would be held in elevators at Port Nelson until spring, when he would catch the inevitable rise in the market in Europe in May. Grain is by no means the only commodity to be considered. Think of the cattle during the long summer shipping season. Freed from the long trans-continental railway haul, they would arrive in Europe in much better condition than nowadays. Then there are hay, timber, logs, wool and a hundred and one things that would be a profit to the westerner with cheap freight to Europe, which are now a glut on the market. Even horses might be raised at a profit.—N. Y. Telegram.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS. —Mr. Newrich (in the opera box to his wife)—"My dear, you must not listen to the singers so much, or else people will think we came here on account of the music."—Fliegende Blätter. —"Well," said Sammy Snuggs, after he had worked for ten minutes in trying to untie the knots in a cord about a bulky package, "if there's anything I dislike it's a birthday present with a string to it."—Pittsburgh Chronicle. —"Popen," asked the young woman, "why is it that you have never done anything to make you famous?" "Never thought of it," said the old man. "What had I better do—bolt the ticket or take seven bottles of patent medicine?"—Indianapolis Journal. —"Sensative," "So you haven't any clergyman?" "No; the first one I met became a lawyer and the next one left because we told him his sermons indicated that he ought to take a vacation."—Chicago Record. —She takes very little interest in public questions and her father and brothers had disturbed her reading. "Dear me," she exclaimed, "do stop talking about McKinley and Bryan. Anybody would think from the way you keep discussing them that they were baseball players!"—Washington Star. —The Washington Post tells a story of a young man in Washington who came to New York the other day, not because he wanted to see the city, or be-

cause he had any business there, but because he had a pass on one of the railroads and didn't mean to let things like that escape him. He came back the other day. Everybody asked him what he had seen over in town. He hadn't seen anything. "Well, didn't you go anywhere?" asked somebody, finally. "Not on your life," said the boy. "Dye" think I was going to pay two dollars a day for a room and not use it all the time?" Electricity on Aluminum Wire. It has been ascertained by experiments that an electric current sent through an aluminum wire heated it to a temperature of 400 degrees above its melting point. The marvel was that it did not drop. This was accounted for by the fact that the oxidized film on its surface was sufficiently strong to keep it together. A magnet moved gently about in its neighborhood caused it to wave and curve, and to coil and twist and almost tie itself into knots.—N. Y. Ledger. Tremendous Odds. The biggest bet on record, according to G. R. Sims, was made a few years back by a young American who was assistant at "a main" held in the grounds of a notorious young sporting marquis now deceased. One bird was badly crippled and the other was fighting with terrible force. "Twenty thousand to a pinch of snuff on that one," said the young American millionaire, which was taken. The American won.—Chicago Chronicle.

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Here's Your Opportunity I am now located in Mrs. Barnard's gallery at Central Point, and will make fine Cabinet Photos until January 1st for \$2 PER DOZEN I am prepared to execute all work in the best possible manner, and guarantee satisfaction. Call and see me. PERRY ELLIS THE PHOTOGRAPHER Central Point, Ore.

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