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FROM POORHOUSE TO PALACE

BY MARY J. HOLMES

CHAPTER XVII.

For more than an hour there had been unbroken silence in the dingy old law office of Mr. Worthington, where Henry Lincoln and William Bender still remained, the one as a practicing lawyer and junior partner of the firm, and the other as a student still, for he had not yet dared to offer himself for examination. Study was something which Henry particularly disliked; and as his mother had trained him with the idea that labor for him was wholly unnecessary, he had never bestowed a thought on the future, or made an exertion of any kind. Now, however, a different phase of affairs was appearing. His father's fortune was threatened with ruin; and he sat in the office with his heels upon the window sill, debating the all-important question whether it were better to marry Ella Campbell for the money which would save him from poverty, or to rouse himself to action for the sake of Mary Howard, whom he really fancied he loved.

Frequently since the party had he met her, each time becoming more and more convinced of her superiority over the other young ladies of her acquaintance. He was undoubtedly greatly assisted in this decision by the manner with which she was received by the fashionables of Boston; but, aside from that, as far as he was capable of doing so, he liked her, and was now making up his mind whether to tell her so or not.

At last breaking the silence, he exclaimed: "Hang me, if I don't believe she's bewitched me, or else I'm in love. Bender, how does a chap feel when he's in love?"

"Very foolish, judging from yourself," returned William, and Henry replied:

"I hope you mean nothing personal, for I'm bound to avenge my honor, and 'twould be a deuced scrape for you and me to fight about 'your sister,' as you call her, for 'tis she who has inspired me, or made a fool of me, one or the other."

"You've changed your mind, haven't you?" asked William, a little sarcastically.

"Hanged if I have!" said Henry. "I was interested in her years ago, when she was the ugliest little vixen a man ever looked upon, and that's why I teased her so—I don't believe she's handsome now, but she's something, and that something has raised the mischief with me. Come, Bender, you are better acquainted with her than I am, so tell me honestly if you think I'd better marry her."

With a haughty frown William replied: "You have my permission, sir, to propose as soon as you please. 'I rather wish you would;" then taking his hat he left the office, while Henry continued his soliloquy as follows:

"I wonder what the old folks would say to a penniless bride. Wouldn't mother and Rose raise a row? I'd soon quiet the old woman, though, by threatening to tell that she was once a factory girl. But if dad smashes up I'll have to work, for I haven't brains enough to earn my living by wit. I guess on the whole I'll go and call on Ella; she's handsome, and besides that has the rhino, too; but how shallow!" and the young man broke the blade of his knife as he stuck it into the hardwood table by way of emphasizing his last words.

Ella chanced to be out, and as Henry was returning he overtook Ida Selden and Mary Howard, who were taking their accustomed walk. Since her conversation with William a weight seemed lifted from Mary's spirits, and she now was happier far than she ever remembered of having been before. Mary could not find it in her heart to be uncourteous to Henry, and her manner toward him that morning was so kind and affable that it completely upset him; and when he parted with her at Mr. Selden's gate his mind was quite made up to offer her his heart and hand.

"I shall have to work," thought he, "but for her sake I'll do anything."

An hour later he sat down and wrote to Mary on paper what he could not tell her face to face. Had there been a lingering doubt of her acceptance, he would undoubtedly have wasted at least a dozen sheets of the tiny gilt-edged paper, but as it was one would suffice, for she would not scrutinize his handwriting—she would not count the blots, or mark the omission of punctuating pauses. An ardent declaration of love was written, sealed and directed.

Restless and unquiet, he sat down to await his answer. It came at last—his rejection, yet couched in language so kind and conciliatory that he could not feel angry. Twice—three times—he read it over, hoping to find some intimation that possibly she might relent; but no, it was firm and decided, and while she thanked him for the honor he conferred upon her, she respectfully declined accepting it, assuring him that his secret should be kept inviolate.

"There's some comfort in that," thought he, "for I wouldn't like to have it known that I have been refused by a poor, unknown girl," and then, as the conviction came over him that she would never be his, he laid his head upon the table and wept such tears as a spoilt child might weep when refused a toy too costly and delicate to be trusted in its rude grasp.

Ere long there was a knock at the door and hastily wiping away all traces of his emotion, Henry admitted his father, who had come to talk of their future prospects, which were even worse than he had feared. But he did not reproach his wayward son, nor hint that his reckless extravagance had hastened the calamity which otherwise might have been avoided. Calmly he stated the extent to which they were involved, adding that though an entire failure might be prevented a short time, it would come at last; and that an honorable payment of his debts would leave them beggars.

"For myself I do not care," said the wretched man, pressing hard his aching temples, where the gray hairs had thickened within a few short weeks. "For myself I do not care, but for my wife and children—for Rose, and that she must miss her accustomed comforts, is the keenest pang of all."

All this time Henry had not spoken, but thought was busily at work. He could not bestir himself; he had no energy for that now; but he could marry Ella Campbell, whose wealth would keep him in the position he now occupied, besides supplying many of Rose's wants.

Cursing the fate which had reduced him to such an extremity, toward the dusk of evening Henry started for Mrs. Campbell's. Lights were burning in the parlor, and as the curtains were drawn back he could see through the partially opened shutter that Ella was alone. Reclining in a large sofa chair, she sat, leaning upon her elbow, the soft curls of her brown hair falling over her white arm, which the full blue cashmere sleeve exposed to view. She seemed deeply engaged in thought, and never before had she looked so lovely to Henry, who as he gazed upon her felt a glow of pride in thinking that fair young girl could be his for the asking.

"And so my little pet is alone," said he, coming forward, and raising to his lips the dainty fingers which Ella extended toward him. "I hope the old aunty is out," he continued, "for I want to see you on special business."

Ella noticed how excited he appeared, and always on the alert for something when he was with her, she began to tremble, and without knowing what she said asked him "what he wanted of her?"

"Zounds!" thought Henry, "she meets me more than half way," and then, lest his resolution should fail, he reseated her in the chair she had left, and drawing an ottoman to her side hastily told her of his love, ending his declaration by saying that from the first time he saw her he had determined that she should be his wife! And Ella, wholly deceived, allowed her head to droop upon his shoulder, while she whispered to him her answer. Thus they were betrothed—Henry Lincoln and Ella Campbell.

"Glad am I to be out of that atmosphere," thought the newly engaged young man, as he reached the open air, and began to breathe more freely. "Goodness me, won't I lead a glorious life? Now, if she'd only hung back a little—but no, she said yes, before I fairly got the words out; but money covereth a multitude of sins—I beg your pardon, ma'am," said he quickly, as he became conscious of having rudely jostled a young lady, who was turning the corner.

Looking up, he met Mary Howard's large dark eyes fixed rather inquiringly upon him. She was accompanied by one of Mr. Selden's servants, and he felt sure she was going to visit her sister. Of course, Ella would tell her all, and what must Mary think of one who could so soon repeat his vows of love to another? In all the world there was not an individual for whose good opinion Henry Lincoln cared one-half so much as for Mary Howard's; and the thought that he should now surely lose it maddened him. The resolution of the morning was forgotten, and that night a fond father watched and wept over his inebriate son.

CHAPTER XVIII.

From one of the luxuriously furnished chambers of her father's elegant mansion Jenny Lincoln looked mournfully out upon the thick, angry clouds which, the livelong day, had obscured the winter sky. Dreamily for a while she listened to the patter of the rain as it fell upon the deserted pavement below, and then, with a long, deep sigh, she turned away and wept. Poor Jenny! the day was rainy and dark and dreary, but darker far were the shadows stealing over her pathway. Turn which way she would there was not one ray of sunshine which even her buoyant spirits could gather from the surrounding gloom. Her only sister was slowly but surely dying, and when Jenny thought of this she felt that if Rose could only live she'd try and bear the rest; try to forget how much she loved William Bender, who that morning had honorably and manfully asked her of her parents, and been spurned with contempt—not by her father, for could he have followed the dictates of his better judgment he would willingly have given his daughter to the care of one who he knew would carefully shield her from the storms of life. It was not he, but the cold, proud mother, who so haughtily refused William's request, accusing him of taking underhand means to win her daughter's affections.

"I had rather see you dead!" said the stony-hearted woman, when Jenny knelt at her feet and pleaded for her to take back the words she had spoken. "I had rather see you dead than married to such as he. I mean what I have said, and you will never be his."

Jenny knew William too well to think he would ever sanction an act of disobedience to her mother, and her heart grew faint and her eyes grew dim with tears, as she thought of conquering the love which had grown with her growth and strengthened with her strength. There was another reason, too, why Jenny should weep as she sat alone in her room. From her father she had heard of all that was to happen. The luxuries to which all her life she had been accustomed were to be hers no longer. The pleasant country house in Chicopee, dearer far than her city home, must be sold, and nowhere in the wide world was there a place for them to rest.

Mr. Lincoln entered his daughter's room, and bending affectionately over her pillow said, "How is my darling to-day?"

"Better, better—almost well," returned Rose, raising herself in bed to prove what she had said. "I shall be out in a few days, and then you'll buy me one of those elegant plaid silks, won't you? All the girls are wearing them, and I haven't had a new dress this winter, and here 'tis almost March."

Oh! how the father longed to tell his dying child that her next dress would be a shroud. But he could not. He was too much a man of the world to speak to her of death; so without answering her question he said: "Rose, do you think you are able to be moved into the country?"

"What, to Chicopee? that horrid, dull place? I thought we were not going there this summer?"

"No, not to Chicopee, but to your grandma Howland's in Glenwood. The physician thinks you will be more quiet there, and the pure air will do you good."

Rose looked earnestly in her father's face to see if he meant what he said, and then replied: "I'd rather go anywhere in the world than to Glenwood. You've no idea how I hate to stay there. Grandma is so queer and the things in the house so fussy and countryfied—and cooks by a fireplace, and washes in a tin basin, and wipes on a crash towel that hangs on a roller!"

Mr. Lincoln could hardly repress a smile at Rose's reasoning, but perceiving that he must be decided, he said: "We think it best for you to go, and shall accordingly make arrangements to take you in the course of a week or two. Your mother will stay with you, and Jenny, too, will be there a part of the time;" then, not wishing to witness the effect of his words, he hastily left the room, pausing in the hall to wipe away the tears which involuntarily came to his eyes as the overheard Rose angrily wonder "why she should be turned out of doors when she wasn't able to sit up!"

"I never can bear the scent of those great tallow candles, never," said she; "and then to think of the coarse sheets and patchwork bedquilts—oh, it's dreadful!"

Jenny's heart, too, was well-nigh bursting, but she forced down her own sorrow, while she strove to comfort her sister, telling her how strong and well the bracing air of the country would make her, and how refreshing, when her fever was on, would be the clear, cold water which gushed from the spring near the thornapple tree, where in childhood they so oft had played. Then she spoke of the miniature waterfall, which not far from her grandmother's door made "fairy-like music" all the day long, and at last, as if soothed by the sound of that far-off water, Rose forgot her trouble, and sank into a sweet, refreshing slumber.

In a few days preparations were commenced for moving Rose to Glenwood, and in the excitement of getting ready she in a measure forgot the tallow candles and patchwork bedquilt, the thoughts of which had so much shocked her at first.

"Put in my embroidered merino morning gown," said she to Jenny, who was packing her trunk, "and the blue cashmere one faced with white satin; and don't forget my best cambric skirt, the one with so much work on it, for when George Moreland comes to Glenwood I shall want to look as well as possible; and then, too, I like to see the country folks open their mouths and stare at city fashions."

"What makes you think George will come to Glenwood?" asked Jenny.

"I know, and that's enough," answered Rose; "and now, before you forget it, put in my leghorn hat, for if I stay long I shall want it; and see how nicely you can fold the dress I wore at Mrs. Russell's party!"

"Why, Rose, what can you possibly want of that?" asked Jenny, and Rose replied:

"Oh, I want to show it to grandma, just to hear her groan over our extravagance, and predict that we'll yet come to ruin!"

Jenny thought that if Rose could have seen her father that morning when the bill for the dress and its costly trimmings was presented she would have wished it removed forever from her sight. Early in the winter Mr. Lincoln had seen that all such matters were settled, and of this bill, more recently made, he knew nothing.

"I can't pay it now," said he promptly to the boy who brought it. "Tell Mr. Holton I will see him in a day or two."

The boy took the paper with an insolent grin, for he had heard the fast circulating rumor "that one of the big bugs was about to smash up," and now, eager to confirm the report, he ran swiftly back to his employer, who muttered, "Just as I expected. I'll draw on him for what I lent him, and that'll tell the story. My daughters can't afford to wear such things, and I'm not going to furnish money for his."

Of all this Rose did not dream, for in her estimation there was no end to her father's wealth, and the possibility of his failing had never entered her mind.

(To be continued.)

ECONOMICAL WOMEN.

Some of the Things Upon Which They Retrench.

Economy with most women means saving just as much money as they can in one direction in order to spend it in another. A languid individual in one of the shops on Saturday was an example of this sort of thriftiness.

"I am going to be very economical in my wardrobe this summer," she said to a companion. "Just now, for instance, I am buying nothing but 9¾ and 8½ cent lawns. Then when I get about $35 together I am going to put it all in a chiffon boa. I dote on chiffon boas, don't you?"

For its own part, this page has never been an advocate of economy. It once knew a mistaken feminine who denied herself luxuries and stinted herself in necessities all her life and put the money she saved thus in a stocking so that a tombstone might be erected over her when she died. But, alas! she expired without making a will, and the next of kin, when the stocking was found, promptly spent its contents for a pony phaeton and a mechanical piano and was happy ever after.

This horrible example haunts the woman's page when it is tempted to buy $1.50 gloves instead of the $2 kind, and it therefore purchases the higher-priced handwear in order that none of its survivors may have its earnings to squander in riotous living and mechanical pianos.

Almost every housekeeper has, however, some pet article upon which she saves money when she can. This page's Aunt Jane, about whom a good deal has been set down here at one time and another, retrenches on beef. To pay 20 or 25 cents a pound for the tenderloin is, she declares, simply monstrous and part of a conspiracy between the butchers and the shopkeepers to impoverish worthy people. She therefore purchases those odds-and-end corners of the animal which seem to have no name and hears unmoved the remarks her progeny make about having their teeth sharpened before they go on with the meal.

Another elderly and very estimable woman economizes by not giving anything to the church collection. Up she gets before the plate reaches her and out of the edifice she stalks, upborne by the consciousness—at least she says she is—that it is better to dispense one's charity from one's own back gate than to put it higgledy-piggledy with other people's dimes and quarters and never be sure that it does any good at all.

This page blushes to mention it, but it really does know people whose chief source of retrenchment is in laundry bills. Like the German housewife, they only have their washing done every six months or so. It is not on record that the money thus saved goes to pay the bills of the family physician, though it would be poetic justice if this were so.

There are dozens of women who economize on newspapers, magazines and books. It was even said of a family of maiden ladies once that they hadn't had a scrap of reading matter in their house for thirty years that wasn't borrowed, except advertisements for soap and baking powder.

The saving woman might be said to be the mother of the rummage sale. It is she who hoards all the cord that comes around parcels and all the paper bags and all the scraps of dress goods purposely, apparently to throw away when house cleaning time comes.—Baltimore News.

Otherwise with the Poor.

"'I feel sorry for the rich.'

"Why?"

"When a rich man gets a counterfeit quarter he can't remember where he got his dollar bill broken."—Chicago Record.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which Is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.

The steelworkers strike is on in earnest.

Hamburg San Francisco liner Tanis wrecked.

In the final trial Shamrock II beat Shamrock I.

The drought in most sections fo the Southwest has been broken.

A sternwheel river boat will be taken from Portland to St. Michaels.

Contract has been let for grading 15 miles of Vancouver, Wash., railroad.

The Cuban republic will begin business with a national debt of only $122,400.

A number of failures have occurred in Germany as the result of the Leipziger bank failing.

It is expected that there will be 40,000 Epworth Leaguers in attendance at the convention in San Francisco.

Seven hundred lives were lost and terrible destruction wrought to property by the eruption of a volcano in northern Java.

Except in small zones around the cities, Transvaal is far from pacified, and British officers are becomming discouraged at the war's lack of progress.

Famine threatens a large part of the Russian empire, not a drop of rain having fallen in the eastern provinces for a month. Crops are already beyond hope.

The steel workers' strike is now on.

Two attempts were made to burn Aberdeen, Wash.

Santos-Dument's airship trial at Paris was not successful.

The Perry monument was unveiled at Kurihama, Japan.

The fall of the Bastile was celebrated throughout France.

Lamont is slated to succeed Mellen as president of the Northern Pacific.

The excess of exports over imports last year was the greatest in our history.

A general strike has been ordered in sheet steel, steel hoop and tin plate mills.

There is no prospect of immediate relief from the drought in the middle west.

Kitchener may be succeeded in South Africa by General Sir Bindon Blood.

Attempt to shoot a judge is the climax of fishermen's strike on Fraser river, B. C.

Washington bicycle tax law declared illegal by Superior Judge Miller, at Vancouver.

Steyn, ex-president of the Free State, narrowly escaped capture by Broadwood's brigade.

Thirteen Polish students are on trial at Posen, charged with belonging to revolutinary societies.

The Congregational church at Forest Grove, Or., which was built in 1858, was burned. Incendiarism is suspected.

A proclamation withdrawing about 500,000 acres from Olympic reserve, Washington, has been sent to President McKinley.

Turkey pays the American claims of $95,000.

Registeirng for Oklahoma lands has begun.

Ohio Democrats have nominated James Kilbourne for governor.

The salmon combine will be incorporated in New Jersey with $32,000,000 capital.

Fraser river, B. C., fishermen say they will fight before they will give in to the Japanese.

The government has chartered the steamship Palatinia to load at Portland for the Philippnies.

Sixteen persons are dead and 36 injured as a result of a collision on the Chicago & Alton near Kansas City.

Treasurer Hollander, of Porto Rico, has resigned.

Cubans are ready for the adoption of a constitution.

Chinese court still shows great honor for dead Boxers.

Prince Christian, of Denmark, is coming to the United States.

A crazy man in Denver killed a woman and fatally stabbed a little girl

A Chinaman was lynched in a California lumber camp for assaulting a woman.

The Minnesota state building at the Pan-American grounds has been dedicated.

Annie Dobbie, a young singer of great promise in New York, is being trained at the expense of Andrew Carnegie.

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroa officials approve the pension and sick benefit system for their employes, to become effective in September.

Werner, Biet & Co., of London, are said to have bought the Portland mine at Cripple Creek, Col., for $21,000,000.

Presbyterians are planning to form a central organization of their individual church associations, to be known as the Young Mens' Presbyterian Union.

Dr. Dyson, chief of the bureau of animal industry at Chicago, says he has hopes that the disease of scab among sheep may be wholly eradicated in the United States during the next two or three years.

BUTTE HOTEL FIRE.

Leading Hostelry Burned—Firemen Were Unable to Locate Fire.

Butte, Mont., July 16.—At 2:40 this morning a still alarm was turned in from the Butte Hotel, a four-story structure on Broadway. When the firemen reached the scene the building was enveloped in smoke, which appeared to pour from every open window. The firemen were unable to locate the fire for 30 minutes, and the greatest confusion prevailed. A number of guests on the lower floors succeeded in groping their way down stairs in the smoke, escaping with nothing but their night clothes. Scores of others were rescued from the upper windows, where the panic-stricken guests shrieked for succor and threatened to jump to the sidewalk below.

At 4 o'clock the fire was completely under control and the hotel management state that, to the best of their knowledge, all the guests and help have been accounted for. There were five injured. The loss will amount to $25,000.

COVERING UP WAR MARKS.

Making the Chinese Emperor's Entry Into Pekin Pleasant.

Pekin, July 16.—The Chinese officials are making elaborate preparations for the emperor's entry into Pekin. All evidence of the destruction wrought by the war along the streets to be traveled by the emperor will be temporarily disguised. Great pagodas will be erected. The Chen Men gate, which was nearly demolished by the bombardment, will be repaired with wood and plaster, painted to resemble stones, and the damage to the walls and outer buildings will be similarly masked.

Li Hung Chang has deferred the withdrawal of the foreign troops from the temples and palaces not later than August 15. The ministers of the powers have acquiesced and have notified the various commanders of their decision. The Americans and British will probably camp near the summer residences of the legations in the western hills until their barracks are completed.

Guards of honor of Americans, Germans, Italians and Japanese escorted General Gaselee, the British commander, to the railway station on his departure. The members of the United States legation awaited him at the station, together with representatives of all the other legations, except the Russians.

$300,000 IN KLONDIKE GOLD.

About One-Third of Treasure Was Brought Out by Four Women.

Seattle, Wash., July 16. — The steamship Humboldt arrived this morning from Skagway with 40 passengers and $300,000 in Klondike gold. The treasure was distributed between a dozen passengers from Dawson and varied in sums from $1,000 to $62,000. These people left the interior subsequent to July 4, and bring news that three of the river steamers are partly wrecked on the river between Dawson and White Horse. The Humboldt left Skagway July 9.

A strange feature concerning the personnel of the Humboldt's Dawson passengers is the fact that four women possess about one-third of the treasure which came out on the steamer.

Purser Shoup reports that considerable gold has been started down the river from Dawson and will come out via St. Michael and the ocean route. Several large consignmnets left Dawson after July 1, but the exact amount is not known. It will be brought down on the Roanoke and several of the other ocean steamers from Nome.

BOAT BLEW UP.

Two Boys Killed and a Dozen Other Persons Injured.

Sunbury, Pa., July 16.—An excursion boat anchored in the Susquehanna river at the foot of Market street, this city, blew up with terriffic force today, killing two boys and injuring a dozen other persons, two fatally. One man is missing and may have been killed.

All the boys killed and injured were fishing on a near-by wharf when the explosion occurred. The engineer was absent at the time, leaving the boat in charge of the pilot. When he left there was a pressure of 60 pounds in the boiler, and he says he opened the firebox door. No cause is given for the explosion.

Ran Into a Meat Train.

Kansas City, July 16. — South bound passenger train No. 1, on the Kansas City Northern Connecting Railroad, due here at 5:40 P. M., collided with an extra Rock Island meat train at the Rock Island crossing, one mile north of Weatherby Mo., at 3:15 this afternoon. One man was killed and four others severely injured.

Steamer Wenatchee Burned.

Wenatchee, Wash., July 16.—Yesterday morning about 2 o'clock the steamer Wenatchee, of the Bailey & O'Conner line, which had been taken out of the water for repairs, took fire and was totally destroyed. A watchman sleeping on the lower deck barely escaped with his life. All the effects on the boat went up in smoke. Loss, $4,500; insurance, $3,500.

Launch of the New Maine.

Philadelphia, July 16.—The Cramp Shipbuilding Company has notified the secretary of the navy that the battleship Maine will be launched Saturday, July 27, at 11 o'clock, A M. It is understood at the yard that there will be no special ceremonies on the occasion, as has been anticipated. Invitations will be confined to naval officials at Washington and a few friends of the builders.

NEWS OF THE STATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.

A severe drought is being felt in the Silver Lake country.

Numerous bears have been seen in the berry patches of Coos county.

Squirrels are bothering the wheat growers in some part of Polk county.

Valley farmers have been using lime to keep smut off their wheat, and with good effect.

The Eugene Lumber Co. has a drive of 1,000,000 feet of logs coming down the Willamette.

A new ferry boat has been built and launched for Hendricks crossing on the McKenzie river, near Eugene.

A small fire destroyed 10 acres of wheat for Herman Polk, and a culvert on the W. & C. R. Railroad, near Fulton station.

Grasshoppers are reported to be swarming the hills and valleys south of Pilot Rock. Serious damage to growing crops is antipipated.

The English patridges recently introduced into Linn county are doing well. Three broods of young ones have been seen near the foot of Knox butte, within a few miles of where they were liberated.

Valley farmers report an abundant crop of Chinese pheasants this season. There were many old ones which escaped the hunter last fall and this spring being favorable there are more young pheasants than usual.

Mount Angel college is developing a model dairy.

The Climax mine in Grant county is showing a large body of ore running $11 to $28 to the ton.

C. J. Plumarth, of Ashland, sold $160 worth of strawberries this season from a patch 100x100.

W. N. White, an English apple dealer has been looking over the Southern Oregon orchards.

Twelve thousand crates of strawberries were shipped from Milton this season mostly to the mining districts.

The government rages in the Greenhorn mountains are reported badly overstocked with outside sheep from Morrow and adjoining counties.

Many farmers in Nebraska, Kansas, etc., are writing for locations in the Willamette valley and Eastern Oregon. They want to get away from the bugs, grasshoppers and hot winds.

The $1,000 appropriated by the last state legislature for the improvement of the mineral springs at Sodaville is now being expended in numerous much needed improvements.

The First Southern Oregon District Agricultural Society will hold a fair at Ashland, September 13-22. There will be no racing, but prizes will be given for baseball and band contests.

Brome grass is being extensively used on the Eastern Oregon ranges to replace the rapidly disappearing bunch grass. It seems to flourish on hard dry soils with a minimum of moisture.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, export value, 55c per bushel; bluestem, 57c; valley, nominal.

Flour—best grades, $2.90@3.40 per barrel; graham, $2.60.

Oats—White, $1.32½@1.35; gray, $1.30@1.32½ per cental.

Barley—Feed, $17@17.50; brewing, $17@17.50 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, $17 per ton; middlings, $21.50; shorts, $20; chop, $16.

Hay—Timothy, $12.50@14; clover, $7@9.50; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 18@20c; dairy, 14@15c; store, 11@12c per pound.

Eggs—17½@18c per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 11½@12c; Young America, 12½@13c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.00@3.50; hens, $3.50@4.50; dressed, 10@11c per pound; springs, $2.00@4.00 per dozen; ducks, $3 for old; $2.50@3.00 for young; geese, $4 per dozen; turkeys, live, 8@10c; dressed, 10@12½c per pound.

Mutton — Lambs, 3½c, gross; dressed, 6@7c per pound; sheep, $3.25, gross; dressed, 6@6½c per lb.

Hogs — Gross, heavy, $5.75@6; light, $4.75@5; dressed, 6½@7c per pound.

Veal—Small, 7½@8½c; large, 6½@7½c per pound.

Beef—Gross top steers, $4.00@4.25; cows and heifers, $3.25@3.50; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.

Hops—12@14c per pound.

Wool — Valley, 11@13c; Eastern Oregon, 8@12c; mohair, 20@21c per pound.

Potatoes—$1.25@1.50 per sack; new potatoes, 1¼c per pound.

Boston will have a college for training young women to earn a livlihood.

An instrument has been perfected at Dartmouth college to measure the heat of the stars.

An English syndicate is said to have purchased control of 72 zinc and lead mines in Missouri.

The American Museum of Natural History is to send an expedition to China to study the life and customs of the Chinese.

There will be between 50,000 and 100,000 additional acres of land devoted to rice culture in the south this year.

The government has acquired one square mile of property on Plum island and will erect fortifications, greatly strengthening New York city's defences.

Three generations of one colored family have been graduated from Oberlin college—John M. Langston, in 1849; his son, Arthur D. Langston, a teacher in St. Louis, in 1877, and his grandson this year.

COMPLIED WITH DEMANDS.

China Suspends Examinations for Period of Five Years.

New York, July 17.—A dispatch from Washington to the Herald says: China has formally complied with the demands of the powers that she "suspend for five years all official examinations in all the cities where foreigners have been massacred or have been subject to cruel treatment," but she has done it in such a way as to rob the suspension of the punitive character desired by the foreign governments. The emperor has issued an edict suspending the examinations not only in the guilty districts, but throughout the entire country for a period of five years. Instead of announcing that this is the result of the ill treatment of foreigners, the edict explains that the emperor desires to give the students in every province an opportunity for an entirely new and modern system of examination.

The United States has not agreed to the action looking to the advisability of the foreign ministers in Pekin demanding that a special punishment be administered in those districts in which foreigners were outraged. This government is anxious that the powers should retire from China as promptly as possible. While China has in the matter of examinations turned a difficulty, it is pointed out that the others terms demanded are exceedingly rigorous, and it will be difficult for the imperial government to comply with them and at the same time preserve its prestige at home.

TEXAS DROUGHT BROKEN.

Heavy Rainfall and High Wind at Dennison—Storm Causes Little Damage.

Dennison, Tex., July 17.—The worst drought ever experienced in this section was broken this afternoon by a terrific rainfall of over two hours' duration, the volume of rain being almost equal to a cloudburst. The storm was accompanied by a wind of almost tornado force. Reports indicate that the rain is general in this vicinity. It has come just in the nick of time to save the cotton crop. It will benefit the fruit crop and furnish stock water, which had entirley failed, causing much distress, and will benefit lowland cotton.

The Southern M. E. church, recently erected at a cost of $15,000, was partially demolished, and a number of small houses in the northern portion of the city were wrecked. Shade trees and window glass all over the city were demolished.

A tornado is reported to have passed over the Chickasaw Nation, but there are no particulars here.

DEVASTATION IN JAVA.

Seven Hundred Persons Perished By a Sudden Volcanic Eruption.

Tacoma, July 17.—Oriental advices give details of terrible destruction of human life that occurred in Northern Java in May by the sudden and terrific coutburst of the volcano Kloet. For 50 miles around all the coffee plantations and other estates were destroyed by showers of ashes and stones, together with great streams of lava and hot mud. Seven hundred natives and a number of Europeans perished. The lava also consumed the superintendent of the estate and about 25 coolies. Many coffee estates in the neighborhood were destroyed. The country around was strewn with corpses.

Many protests are being made because the Russian authorities at Port Arthur are opening all letters to and from the American and European residents there. Nothing is permitted to be sent out that contains any allusion to Russian military affairs or criticism of Russian methods.

CONCORD AT SEATTLE.

Gunboat Which Helped Destroy Spanish Fleet in Manila Bay.

Seattle, July 17.—The United States gunboat Concord, Commander Harry Knox, which played such an important part under Commodore Dewey in the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila bay, May 1, 1898, arrived from the Philippines by way of Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Of the officers in command of the vessel during the memorable sea fight, but one, F. E. Schute, paymaster's clerk, remains on the ship. As to the force of marines, but five of the Concord's crew at the time she turned her guns on the Spanish battle ship are now on her.

Prairie Fire in Kansas.

Larned, Kan., July 17.—A prairie fire, which started 18 miles north of this place, burned over a large area of country yesterday afternoon and destroyed 40,000 bushels of wheat.

Incendiarism in San Francisco.

San Francisco, July 17.—A series of fires early this morning indicate that incendiaries were at work. Stables were made the especial mark of their torches. Twenty horses were burned to death. The fires occurred in the same general neighborhood.

Ten Thousand Perons at El Reno.

El Reno, O. T., July 17.—The trains today have been bringing in moderate crowds for registration. There are probably 10,000 people here, and everything is quiet and orderly. Every one is comfortably situated and a large number more could be accommodated. The water is abundant and every provision has been made to feed and house the multitude. The temperature has hung around the 100 mark.

Annexed by Russia.

London, July 17.—"The Russian civil administrator here," says a dispatch to the Morning Post, from Niu Chwang, "has prepared a proclamation declaring that the port of Niu Chwang has been taken over by Russia. This will be issued on receipt of the official dociment from Pekin. The proclamation will decree that all houses shall be liable to a tax of 60 cents per month, and all Chinese a poll tax of $1.50 a month. It will direct that various professions must be denoted by various clothing."

THE STRIKE IS ON

BUT STEELWORKERS EXPECT A SETTLEMENT SOON.

Seventy-five Thousand Men Have Walked Out From the Various Plants of the United States Steel Corporation, and More Are Steadily Joining Them—Union Has Situation Well in Hand.

Pittsburg, July 17.—Reports received from all sources connected with the great strike of the steel workers today indicate that the members of the Amalgamated Association have matters well in hand and the strike order was generally obeyed. Telegrams from various points where the mills of the American Tinplate Company, the American Steel Hoop Company and the American Sheet Steel Company are located, tell of the shutting down of these plants in large numbers. In many cases the plants had been shut down by the first strike order, which affected the sheet steel and steel hoop companies only. The order last night brought out all union plants of the American Tinplate Company, with the single exception of the new mill in Monessen, which is still running.

At the Amalgamated Association headquarters it is stated that the figures given out Saturday night regarding the number of men who would be actually idle in the mills of the three companies have proved correct. This number was placed at 74,000. Of the 74,000 men idle, 25,000 are in Pittsburg, 800 in Alleghany and 1,500 in McKeesport. President Shaffer has it in his power to close many more Pittsbrug mills, but it is not thought that he will do anything of a radical nature until he is compelled to.

The American Steel Hoop Company's supposedly non-union mill, was closed this morning in all its branches. The tie-up at this mill was said to have been a surprise to the millowners and officials in charge of it. The plant known as the Lindsey & McCutcheon mill in Allegheny was shut down completely in the puddling and bar mills. All the skilled workmen refused to enter the mill this morning and the company did not even operate the five furnaces. The finishing department of the mill was working during the day, as the men are not in the union, but it is claimed by the workers that the employes in that department will not go to work in the morning.

While all the mills of the United States Steel Corporation are included in the general tie-up, the three companies mentioned are the first to be attacked. What the next movement will be the workers do not say. It is announced tonight that the circular letter which was expected to be sent out today calling on the men in the mills of the Federal Steel Company, the Naional Steel Company and the National Tube Company toc ome out will not be issued at present.

DYNAMITE CNECKED FLAMES.

Four Blocks of Business Houses Were Burned at Enid.

Enid O. T. July 17.—Four blocks of business houses on the public square were destroyed by fire in less than three hours' time by the fire that started after mmidnight last night. The water supply was inadequate, and it was necessary to blow up buildings with dynaimte to check the flames. Owing to the continued drought, everything burned like match wood. A light wind blew from the southeast, and saved the eastern part of the town. The total loss is estimated at $190,000. The insurance will be light.

The fire started in the two story hotel building near the southeast corner of the square, and spread quickly to the big hardware house on the corner. Both buildings, with their contents, were soon consumed. The fire bearing south destroyed a furniture store, restaurant and hotel. Following this in the path of the flames was a furniture store, hotel, a butcher shop in which $1,000 in cash was consumed and a carriage works. Then going east it consumed another shop and three small buildings. Here it jumped across the street west and destroyed a wholesale house and a hotel. The Armour Packing Co.'s big building was destroyed and the entire block south of the square. The firemen finally had to blow up several buildings with dynamite.

Better Mail Service for Alaska.

Washington, July 17.—The postoffice department has contracted for an increase of the postal service in Alaska that will provide quicker time between Seattle and Circle City and intermediate points and furnish a direct steamboat service to Sitka. The new contract calls for an additional round trip every month between Seattle and Circle City via Sitka and Valdes, and the all-American overland route. The schedule time is shorter than ever before. The contract will run from October 1 to June 30.

Cotton Injured by Drought.

Ardmore, I. T., July 17.—Reports from the cotton belt show that cotton is being injured by the drought that has prevailed in the Chickasaw Nation for the past five weeks. Unless rain falls within the next few days crops will be cut short. About 60 per cent of the corn crop has already been ruined. There will be no marketable corn. The crop of other grains is a total failure.

The Machinists Strike.

Cincinnati, July 17.—The reports that the machinists strike was broken have been broken are confirmed, when the men of the Fay-Hagen shops votes' to go to work in a body. The strike has not been declared off here, but the strikers have decided to vote by shops, and in this way almost all have arranged to resume work except some of the smaller shops. The strikres here deny the statement of President James O'Connell that the international union has funds to continue the contest.