

THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION.

Immigrants are coming into Oregon and Washington more rapidly now than at any time since the country was settled. This applies more particularly to the country east of the Cascades, although the Willamette and other valleys on the west of the mountains are beginning to feel the effects of it very sensibly. A colony of over 200 people from Nebraska arrived at Cheney, W. T., a few days ago. The *Sentinel* says, the colony left Nebraska on June 1st, coming by rail to the terminus of the Utah Northern, and from there by team over the Mullen road through Missoula and down Clark's fork. The trip by wagon consumed 32 days, and was a tedious course through a mountainous country. The special rates secured over the railroad lines were very low, and enabled the colony to come through at an outlay surprisingly small. Each passage cost \$25, each horse \$17.50, and each wagon \$17. Dr. Hoyt started immediately for Nebraska, to start another party of 300. Many of the members of the colony have gone into the Big Bend country, looking for locations. They are well pleased with the country.

PUGET SOUND LANDS.

The land in the Puget Sound basin has often been denounced as unfit for agricultural purposes, and that it never could compare to the Willamette valley or the plains east of the Cascade Mountains for producing crops. The reason is that the different localities are not properly understood. Most of the lands here require a good deal of hard labor to clear and subdue them, and the settler has a rough life of it for a few years in getting his farm open and under cultivation. When he does so, his farm is a lasting one and will never wear out with proper care. It may not be suited for a large grain field, but is suited for nearly all crops of the temperate region, while for dairy purposes, meadows and fruit orchards none can surpass it. This is really a region fitted for a diversity of crops, rather than for a single kind of production. While grain grows well, the fields for it must of necessity be small. No country raises vegetable superior to ours, and no country can grow better fruit. Butter and cheese of the finest qualities are produced, while the timbered hills afford pasturage for the fattest cattle and sheep. The heavy clay soil of our up-lands will be found in a few years to be superior to the valley of the Willamette or the wheat plains of the upper Columbia, as it will always grow better as it is cultivated and warmed up, and in the future will be found of more value than the light soils of other localities.—*Transcript*.

Forty-nine hundred immigrants landed at Castle Garden, N. Y. in one day.

CLIMATIC.—The present is the last week of the midsummer month of July, and here we have cool and pleasant weather, without anybody having suffered from the unpleasant effects of the heated term. The nights up to this time have been delightfully cool, but not so well do the people of the Eastern states fare with the thermometer at 110°, which is almost unbearable in that climate, where the nights are as hot as the days, and far more suffocating. One can stand a great deal of fatigue during the day, if allowed to rest comfortably at night; but this is a boon seldom enjoyed in the east in the summer time, especially in the larger cities, where the buildings absorb the sun's heat during the day and retain it. It may be the lack of refreshing sleep and the subsequent exhaustion that renders the people of the Eastern states so liable to sunstroke.—*Lewiston News*.

One peculiarity in the soil of this country is that the longer it is tilled, the richer and more productive it becomes. In most lands rotation must be practiced, or the producing qualities of the soil are soon exhausted. There is an element in this land that escapes when the latter is frequently exposed to the elements, and it thereby becomes enriched. An example of this kind was seen the other day in a field where the land was plowed, and sown in grain for several years; this showed a much better quality, and a thriftier growth of grain than the new ground, though it had all been subjected to the same amount of cultivation this year. This fact is generally conceded by our farmers, whose opinions are certainly reliable.—*Prineville News*.

Secretary Teller does not contemplate a general and forcible disarming of the Indians, but favors the policy of encouraging them to deliver up their arms voluntarily, even to the extent of offering a tempting bonus if necessary. This is the proper policy, but we fear Mr. Teller will find it one of practical difficulty. Secretary Schurz had similar desires, but owing to the impossibility of preventing mercenary whites from selling arms to the Indians, the able efforts of the Secretary did not wholly succeed.

The Odd Fellows of Oregon have purchased a farm, comprising 100 acres of land, admirably located near the mouth of the Sandy, in the eastern portion of Multnomah county on the line of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company's railroad, and about twelve miles from Portland. The farm is to be used as a home for the aged and indigent of the Order, that are not otherwise provided for.

The railroads west of Chicago have been having a war on rates, their object being to equalize the rates on the different roads. In order to do this the Union Pacific sought to increase her fare. It is already \$100 from Kansas City to San Francisco, but that road wanted it raised to \$104. We are glad to see that it was not permitted. The rates are already too high. Instead of being \$100 it should not be over \$60, and \$75 at the most. At such rates the benefit would go to the railroad. Drop it to \$50 and the travel on the Union Pacific would be doubled.

The disastrous fire that almost obliterated the thriving town of Colfax, should prove a warning to other new places, and efforts should be made at once to secure an adequate fire apparatus in all such towns. The report is made, that Colfax was in possession of a fire engine, but that it was allowed to get out of order nearly two years ago, and remained unrepaired ever since.

Maj. Truax, of Walla Walla has patented a device to be applied to the grain chutes on the Snake river. These chutes are wooden pipes several thousand feet long, through which the grain slides down the steep banks to steamboat landings. The most ingenious part of the patent is a wheel, which the sliding grain turns and gives power to a cleaning apparatus at the hopper of the chute. Little chimneys are placed in the chute at intervals, through which the dust and smut in the wheat rises and it finally comes out as clean as possible, all by automatic motion.

A New Haven, Conn., man has taken out a patent for an invention of which he claims secures the absolute storage of electricity for electric light purposes. He says that by his contrivance the electrical force becomes as portable as kerosene oil, and the perils to life and property incident to a current produced by a dynamo machine are entirely obviated. He also says that to secure this electrical force primarily his invention contemplates the utilizing of the rising and falling of the tides along the sea-coast, the winds in the interior and the moving of trains and steamboats when it is desired to light them with electrical illumination.

Mr. H. Villard has kindly donated a library of select books to the shops in The Dalles.