

"WHAT ARE MY CHANCES?"

THE usual spring crop of letters is daily received at this office, and no doubt at other newspaper offices, from men east of the Rockies, who write asking about the country. They appear to think that the Oregon newspapers keep a sort of information agency and furnish all kinds of reliable statistics free of cost to all inquirers. Some of the letters are funny. The writers did not mean to make them humorous, but that fact makes them all the more ludicrous. A baker writing from Fon-du-Lac, Wis., wants us to send him our paper "for a week or so, to get an idea of the place." A young gentleman writes from Crestline, Ohio, asking what the probable show is for "a lawyer." This family journal is firm in the belief that there are lawyers enough here now. A little more competition might overdo the thing. Every facility is already afforded present litigants, and although an additional term of court hath been ordered for this bailiwick, yet the increased stress upon the Astoria bar can be borne without undue effort on the part of its members.

Without the slightest desire to subdue the ardent enthusiasm of those who wish to make their homes in the setting sun, it may be in order to suggest that if they severally and individually come here to work and stand in on all occasions they will find plenty to do and due encouragement. If our correspondent from Milwaukee, for instance, who "has had charge of a saw mill," will come here and get a bit of land on the other side of the hill, which will be gladly leased him by the owner, and put it into cultivable shape, and raise vegetables and garden truck, he will find a ready sale for every morsel of it at good prices right here, and if he sticks to it he will be independent in three or four or five or six years; but if he comes looking for a "job," and expects to get enough to buy opera tickets with, he would do better to look for a summer's "sit" in a Milwaukee brickyard. There is any amount of room here. This is one of the roomiest sections in Uncle Sam's dominions, and opportunities are not wanting, but they must be embraced with a warm, fervent embrace, and to grow tired is to fail.

A good many pursuits here are overdone; a good many more are decidedly underdone, and those are ready for the right men to develop. In general, however, it may be said that there are in all communities of the Northwest busy, active, wide-awake men who are well acquainted "back East," who have a brother or a cousin or some one who only needs the word to start right out here. These men keep a bright lookout, and as soon as they see anything that they think a living can be made at they are not slow in telling their folks east of the Rockies about it, and it is in this way that the greater part of our immigration is made up. In the main this is the better way. A man who drifts here in a sort of speculative uncertainty as to what he will do after he is here has the chances against him from the start. It would be better for him to have some sort of programme arranged and live up to that as closely as possible. A very essential part of that programme is to have sufficient coin about

him to carry him somewhere else if he doesn't conclude to stay at the place he first reaches, or enough to keep him for a while if he does.

Another suggestion to the ardent young man who contemplates giving us the benefit of his great abilities. There are men here just as well up in experience, in ability and in the attributes that win success as, probably, he is himself. There are men who have knocked around from one end of the continent to the other; who have had their eye teeth cut many moons ago; who are able to see and turn their sight to advantage. Ability is not at such an astonishing premium as some of our would-be immigrants would, by their correspondence, see to imply. To the worker, the man with honest purpose, the man who is not in too big a hurry to get rich, the man who is willing to "live and let live," there is plenty of room and no lack of opportunity in any part of this section, and every one will pay him the value he sets upon himself—if he can show that he hasn't marked himself up too high.—*Astorian*.

In connection with the account given on another page of the wonderful growth of North Yakima, the following engineer's "yarn," related in the *Providence Press*, will be appreciated:

One day I was driving my engine over the prairie at the rate of forty miles an hour, without a house in sight, and supposing the nearest town to be thirty miles distant. But as I glanced ahead I was astonished to see that I was approaching a large city. I rubbed my eyes, thinking it was a mirage.

"Jim," says I to the fireman, "what's this place?"

"Blamed if I know!" says Jim, staring out of the cab. "I declare, if there ain't a new town growed up here since we went over the line yesterday!"

"I believe you are right, Jim. Ring the bell or we shall run over somebody!"

So I slowed up, and we pulled into a depot, where more'n five hundred people were waiting to see the first train come into the place. The conductor learned the name of the town, put it down on the schedule, and we went on.

"Jim," says I, as we pulled out, "keep your eyes open for new towns. First thing you know we'll be running by some strange place."

"That's so!" says Jim. "An' hadn't we better git one of the brakemen to watch out on the rear platform for towns that spring up after the engine gets by?"

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS.

March.

- 27—Woolen Mills at Dayton, W. T., burned.... Steamer *Mark Twain* exploded near Memphis, Tenn.; 5 killed and 4 wounded.... 35 men killed by explosion in coal mine at Concepcion, Chile; 40 at Tappan, Austrian Silesia; 36 at Ostran, Moravia, and 12 in Indian Territory.... French defeated with great loss by Chinese at Langson.
- 31—Fong Hoo and Makang bombarded and captured by French.

April.

- 1—Aspinwall (Colo.) burned by insurgents.
- 3—United States troops sent to Isthmus of Panama.... Preliminary treaty of peace signed by France and China.
- 4—Guatemalan troops defeated by San Salvador army and General Barrios killed.
- 4—Ten miners buried by cave in colliery at Shenandoah, Pa.
- 5—Richard Grant White died in New York.
- 9—News of battle in Afghanistan March 29 received; Afghans defeated with loss of 500 by Russians; great excitement in England; war considered unavoidable between England and Russia.
- 12—Lee Summit, Mo., burned; loss, \$100,000.
- 14—Peace agreed upon in Central America.
- 17—Fire at Victoria, B. C.; 2 persons burned to death; loss, \$20,000.
- 22—Fire at Vicksburg, Miss.; 35 lives lost and \$250,000 worth of property destroyed.... Many people drowned and much damage done by cloud burst in Kansas.
- 23—Dynamite explosion in the Admiralty building, London.... United States troops fired upon by insurgents at Panama.
- 24—Panama occupied by United States troops.... Battle near Batouche between Canadian troops and Riel's rebels; troops lost 5 killed and 30 wounded.
- 25—Ten miners buried by snow slide near Leadville, Col.
- 26—United States troops withdrawn from Panama—Mexican troops defeated by Yaqui Indians with loss of 50 men.