

An effort is being made to provide an electric light system for the town of Silverton, Oregon.

The people of Klamath county, Oregon, are agitating the subject of organizing a district fair for their section of the state. They want the legislature at its next session to make an appropriation for that purpose, as it has aided other district fairs in the state.

A New York firm of brokers has succeeded in placing the water bonds of the city of Pasco, Washington, to the amount of \$130,000 at a discount of ten per cent. The money will be available immediately, and as a contract has been signed for the construction of the main canal, work will be commenced at once. The canal will be about twenty miles in length and will be eight feet wide and three feet in depth.

The Crescent Creamery Co., of Tacoma, has just completed a large and handsome building in that city, and has a large lot of machinery on the way from the east which will be set up and put in operation at the earliest possible moment. A cold storage department will be a prominent feature of the business, \$20,000 worth of refrigerating machinery having been purchased. An old cold storage house has been converted into a fish dressing establishment, and the company will engage extensively in that business.

One year ago Puyallup, Washington, the great hop center of the northwest, had but one brick building. Now there are finished, or in an advanced stage of construction, eight brick structures two and three stories in height. A large number of other buildings have been erected during the year, including an excellent hotel designed to accommodate the tourists who visit that locality. The unusually prosperous season in the hop business is likely to cause even more substantial improvements during the coming year.

One of the biggest finds yet reported in the Castle mountains, Montana, has recently been made at Four-mile, between the location of the King of the Castles and the Columbia. A tunnel was run in through a mass of iron and an immense body of high grade galena exposed. There is considerable excitement over this find for two reasons, first, that it is in the granite, and second, that it is on the White Sulphur Springs slope of the Castles, and gives assurance that the mineral belt extends around the northern slope fully as strong as on the southern declivity.

On Monday evening next will be inaugurated a week's season of tragedy at the Marquam Grand opera house, by the eminent tragedian, Mr. Thos. W. Keene. Mr. Keene's eleven years' service constantly engaged in portraying the leading characters in the Shakespearean drama certainly give him a strong claim to popularity and consideration, and wide recognition by the most eminent American critics secures for him a place in the dramatic history of this country among the most illustrious of our tragic actors. The repertoire is, Monday, *Richellen*; Tuesday, *Louis XI*; Wednesday, *Richard III*; Thursday, *Hamlet*; Friday, *Othello*; Saturday matinee, *The Merchant of Venice*; Saturday night, *Richard III*.

The commission of army officers, appointed by Secretary of War Proctor, to select a site on the Pacific coast for the proposed gun factory, has been in this city, and will visit various places on the coast before making a report. The commission is composed of Colonel William P. Craig-hill, of the United States engineer corps; Colonel Henry W. Cloosen, Fourth artillery; Colonel A. R. Buffington and Major Clarence E. Dutton, of the ordnance department. The establishment of this factory will depend largely on the result of the labors of the commission recently sent out to select a site for a navy yard, as the materials, shipping facilities, etc., of the one are also essential to the other. Both establishments will employ a large number of men, and will contribute very materially to the prosperity of the northwest.

Hop culture along Fraser river, in British Columbia, is becoming a large and profitable business. Here are two instances of great results this season: Messrs. Broe Brothers, well known and successful farmers of Aldergrove, put about twelve acres of land in hops this year, and these acres yielded no less than twelve tons, which have already been sold at forty-six cents per pound. This brings the gross value of the crop to \$11,040. Cost of picking, freight to market, etc., at eight cents per pound, \$1,920, which, deducted from \$11,040, leaves a net profit of \$9,120. These figures are almost too large to be believed, but they are genuine nevertheless. Another farmer in the same district, named Hudson, had twenty-five acres in hops

this year, for which he was offered \$16,000 in cash, the purchaser to pick and ship and take all risks. The offer was refused, as Mr. Hudson was confident of realizing twenty per cent. more by picking and handling the crop himself.

With the advent of a railroad to Willapa harbor, the oyster business of Shoalwater bay will be increased to immense proportions. The title to the vast shoals is said not to be clear at present, but the question will shortly be settled, when it is said the business of transplanting oysters from the east will be engaged in largely. Nowhere in the country are the prospects so good in this respect, as there is comparatively little expense connected with the growing of the bivalves in that section. In San Francisco bay the beds have to be protected from the raids of the deadly enemy of the oyster, the stingeree, by a fence extending for mile after mile, while in Pacific county there is only the star fish to contend with, and these can easily be killed at low tide. The stingeree, on the contrary, comes and goes with the tide, and consequently can pursue his depredations with impunity. Thousands of dollars are spent annually in San Francisco in keeping these fences in good condition, and this fact, in addition to the greater cost of transportation to the Sound and Portland, where there are large markets to be supplied, is an important factor in favor of Shoalwater bay. This trade will yet contribute largely to the development and welfare of Pacific county.—*Astoria Pioneer*.

There is a movement on foot looking to the construction of a north and south railway in Idaho, and a number of prominent business men in the new state recently held a conference with Union Pacific officials relative to the building of such a line. The new road is to run between the Seven Devils mining camp and Silver City, with the DeLamar mining camp, some distance south of Caldwell, on the Short Line, as its terminus, 130 miles in all. The line will really be a feeder to the Union Pacific for ties and timber of all kinds, and also supply timber to the big DeLamar and other mines which are in need of it. By this road 500 square miles of yellow pine, fir and tamarack will be made accessible, from which at least three and one-quarter billion feet can be cut. Allowing that between fifty and a hundred million feet be cut annually, the supply would not be exhausted within forty years, and at the rate now paid the railroad for hauling would bring in a revenue of \$15,000,000. The road will cost about \$11,000 per mile including equipment. The heaviest grades are only seventy-five feet, while the curves are nothing to speak of. Engineers have completed the preliminary survey, which is almost as good as a final location as the work was very carefully done. Everything about the road seems feasible and the prospects for its construction are considered bright.

Alaska is almost the last place in the world where one would think of prosecuting agriculture, though popular knowledge of the subject may be said to be limited to generalities. The *Seattle Telegraph* the other day reported Governor Knapp, who is down from his northern province for a few weeks, as follows:

"Agriculture in Alaska is as yet only a matter of theory. Very little has been done in the way of agricultural pursuits. Special farming, like cultivation of roots, berries, and the keeping of dairies for local demand has proven very advantageous. The climate is too cold and wet for the cultivation of grains. Furthermore, clearing is too difficult for rapid development of the country, and even if our experiments should prove successful we should have no markets for our produce. The potatoes, cauliflowers, onions and turnips raised in Alaska are the finest I have seen anywhere. We had some cauliflowers that we intended to send to the Spokane Falls exposition, but our poor transportation facilities prohibited us from doing so.

"Alaska abounds in berries. Along the Chilcat river, the Yakutat river, Prince William's sound and on Corak island fine and good strawberries are raised in abundance. Our cranberries are smaller than those raised in the states, but excel them in flavor. We have a kind of berry called the salmon berry, which is similar to your raspberry but larger. Our blackberries are not by any means like the eastern blackberries. They are similar to the blueberries, but a little more tart and probably are a variety of the blackberries.

"Timothy grows fine. The great drawback is the weather, which does not allow us to cure the grass. Cattle live out-doors without being fed except during winter, when it is extraordinarily cold. The snowfall is light and the winters are not very severe. In Sitka the thermometer has been down to zero only once in forty-six years. Last year it reached four degrees above zero one night.

"The product of roots and vegetables does not as yet supply the local market. The interior of Alaska has, in my opinion, great possibilities as regards agriculture. The climate is not as wet as it is along the coast, but private enterprise cannot afford to experiment with it. The government should take some steps to solve the question."