

The squaw men on the Crow reservation, in Montana, who made ineffectual efforts to prevent the signing of the treaty ceding a large portion of the reservation to the government, are now taking steps to secure the best of the ceded portion for themselves. Although the treaty is not yet ratified and the land is not open to the public, they are having all the tracts of bottom land along the streams surveyed with the intention of locating on them and taking them up when the reservation is thrown open to settlement. Their right as husbands of Indian women enables them to live on the reservation and consummate the scheme. By thus securing all the bottom lands and the watering places, they can hold practical control of the adjacent grazing lands, as the latter are valueless without the former, and thus prevent the settlement of those lands by a more industrious and desirable class of citizens. It is certainly not to the interest of the people residing in that portion of the state to permit this scheme, which seems to be a united effort guided by legal advice, to be consummated, as much of the expected benefit from the opening of the reservation to settlement will thereby be lost.

The report of the legislative committee of investigation of the Idaho state insane asylum, at Blackfoot, shows that for the past four years the total expenditures were \$102,325.82. Of this, \$19,000 was paid for land and buildings, and \$10,000 in material and supplies is now on hand, leaving the total net current expense to be \$72,476.43. The daily average of patients under treatment for the time was 53.5, and the net cost per day ninety-three cents per patient. From all information gained it appears that the patients have been well cared for and have been kindly and carefully treated. There are at present seventy-one patients in the institution, twenty-four females and forty-seven males. The committee earnestly recommends that an appropriation of not less than \$40,000 be made for the construction of additional buildings and furnishing and completing the new building constructed since the late fire, and, further, that an appropriation of an amount to equal ninety cents per capita be made for the maintenance of the patients. The expenses per capita will decrease as the number of inmates increases.

The great Anaconda mining properties in Montana, which are the richest copper producers in the world, and which have made a number of men millionaires, have been transferred to the ubiquitous English syndicate, the consideration being, it is reported, \$10,000,000. A new company has been incorporated with a capital of \$12,500,000, with prominent New York brokers as trustees. Negotiations have been pending for several months, but all matters were kept closely guarded so that no authentic information could be had until the formal transfer was made last week. The quantity of ore in this property is inexhaustible, and as the mines have always paid enormous dividends no reason is assigned for the owners parting with them except that they wish to retire from active business. Messrs. Haggin, Hearst, Tevis and Daly were the owners, each of whom is now becoming advanced in years, and having amassed large fortunes from their labors are ready to transfer the burden of cares and perplexities of the details of managing such a concern to younger shoulders.

The Seattle & Northern was completed to Hamilton on Saturday of last week, and the road will be put in operation at once. The line of the extension was graded prior to the time the Oregon Improvement company, which company owns the Seattle & Northern, passed into the hands of the receiver. Permission was granted, however, by the court for the completion of the road to Hamilton, so tracklaying began and was rushed through rapidly. The citizens of Hamilton, the coal city, are jubilant over the advent of the iron rail. Now that the coal product can have an outlet, the mines will be worked to their fullest capacity. It is probable that before long the Seattle & Northern will pass into the control of the Northern Pacific. Such a deal has been pending, and is beginning to assume a probability of being consummated.—*Seattle Press*.

Appropriations aggregating \$90,000 have been made by congress for the purpose of clearing the Snake and Upper Columbia rivers of obstructions. Three boats are now being built at Pasco for that purpose and work will begin as soon as they are completed. With the obstructions removed, the Columbia will be navigable as far as the mouth of the Little Spokane. Here there are some very troublesome rapids that have never been crossed. Above the mouth of the Little Spokane navigation is unobstructed as far as Kettle falls, and a steamer is now in course of construction for use on that portion of the river. The most dangerous place in Snake river is Fishhook rapids, about sixteen miles above Pasco. Of the amount to be used for this work \$70,000 will be expended on the Columbia and \$20,000 on the Snake.

Residents along the north bank of the Columbia river between Oak Point and Knappton, Washington, have been canvassing that section for the

purpose of raising \$5,000 for the purpose of erecting a telegraph and telephone line from Oak Point to a connection with the government line which reaches Washington from Astoria a short distance below Knappton. Over \$3,000 have already been secured and it is thought the remainder will be subscribed in time to finish the line and get in shape for operation not later than April first. This enterprise will be a great convenience to all parties living along the river between those points, as they will be placed in direct connection with Portland and all parts of the country.

The firm of Galland Brothers, who for some years have been extensively engaged in merchandising at Farmington, Palouse City, Oakesdale and other points in the Palouse country, Washington, have made preparations for the erection of a mammoth brewery and malting establishment at Spokane Falls. They will put in a plant worth about \$200,000, and in addition to the regular brewing business will manufacture malt for shipment to eastern points. This will be the largest concern of the kind in Washington, and will be a substantial addition to Spokane's already extensive manufacturing business.

In 1889 there were 3,965 acres planted in hops in Washington, which yielded 35,128 bales. In 1890 the acreage was increased to 4,538 and the product to 45,415 bales. In Oregon there were 16,908 bales produced in 1889, and 28,130 bales in 1890. Each of these states shows a handsome increase for the year 1890 over the preceding year. California's product for 1890 was less than for 1889, there being but 28,130 bales gathered as against 35,230 bales for the year before.

A bill for the incorporation of the Pacific Cable Company has been introduced into congress by Senator Mitchell. San Francisco is named as the American terminus, but provision is made for connection with all the coast cities. Three Oregon capitalists, J. B. Montgomery, D. P. Thompson and Asahel Bush, are among the incorporators.

A steamer is being built to ply on the Skykomish river, between Sultan City and Snohomish, Washington. She is to be sixty feet long and fifteen beam, will carry ten tons of freight and draw sixteen inches of water. She will be ready in March.

Sealing along the coast is reported unusually good this season. Already the sealers are at work off Cape Flattery, and the Indians are making large catches.

POETS OF THE PACIFIC COAST

Under this heading the last issue of each month will contain a number of the best poems entered for competition in the West Shore poetic contest. Only residents of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Arizona, British Columbia and Alaska are eligible to compete. The contest closes on the fifteenth of each month. The following prizes are offered each month, making twelve first prizes during the year 1891:

FIRST PRIZE—A volume of one of the standard poets, 12-mo. size, handsomely bound in full padded leather, with full gilt edges. The prize winner may designate his choice of the following volumes: Dante, Milton, Scott, Burns, Moore, Wordsworth, Browning, Poe, Jean Ingelow, Mrs. Hemans, Mrs. Browning and Favorite Poems, a volume of choice selections from all the poets. These are all new books, specially issued as elegant gift editions, and are from the shelves of Stuart & Thompson, the well known booksellers of Portland.

SECOND PRIZE—A subscription to WEST SHORE for six months, to be sent to any address.

THIRD PRIZE—A subscription to WEST SHORE for three months, to be sent to any address.

GRAND PRIZE—In addition to the monthly first prize, at the end of the year the poem that shall be decided to be the best sent in during the entire year will receive an elegant copy of one of the great classic poems with illustrations by Dore, and the portrait of the writer will be published, so that those who have read the poem may have the additional pleasure of seeing the face of the one who has contributed to their enjoyment.

The judges are persons of literary culture not connected with WEST SHORE in any capacity. Short poems are preferred.