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OUR SISTER STATES

INTERESTING NEWS NOTES FROM VARIOUS PLACES.

The Great Northwest Furnishes Some News of More Than General Interest—Development and Progress in all Industries—Oregon.

Buildings to cost \$61,000 are under way in Fossil. Gang plows have begun work in Grant county. Plowing was general in Sherman county last week.

Empire City is in line with an 8 o'clock curfew ordinance. A Marshfield factory turned out 5,000 apple boxes for the neighboring farmers this season.

The snagboat is at work on the bar in the river at Junction City, blasting out and deepening the channel. The city council of Albany estimates that it will cost \$14,800 to run that city this year, and the resources are estimated at \$15,850.

The town council of Florence has voted an appropriation to build a floating wharf for the accommodation of the maritime community. There will no doubt be several head of sheep for sale in Grant county this spring. Sheepmen are all in hopes of securing a slightly advanced price for their sheep this season.

An important strike was made in the upper tunnel of the North Pole mine at Bourne recently. A body of ore about eight feet in width of high grade was encountered.

A gravel train of nineteen cars is now working between Merlin and Ashland, filling in depressions with decomposed granite obtained from the cuts north of Grant's Pass.

Work on the ladies' hall of the Eastern Oregon state normal school at Weston will be begun in a short time, and it is expected that the building will be completed by June 1.

A La Grande man has discovered an ingenious device for clearing the sidewalk of snow. It is simply a lawnmower, with a box attached behind to catch the snow—and it is said to work to perfection.

The Bandon school district has voted a levy of six mills for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the district. It is expected that the amount of the levy will clear the district of all debt, except the \$3,000 of bonds issued for the new school house.

The city council of Ashland has a case against an agent of a sewing machine company for violating a city ordinance regulating peddling. The machine company will probably make a test of the matter.

Within a radius of forty miles around Grant's Pass there is said to be in operation fully 100 giant hydraulic plants, which speak well for the wonderful richness of placer deposits of that portion of the state.

Forty-nine people joined the First Presbyterian church at Brownsville recently as the result of revival work. One of the converts is Orville Montgomery, a brother of the recently hanged Lloyd Montgomery.

The taxroll has been placed in the hands of the sheriff of Benton county. The aggregate amount of taxes to be collected is \$60,301.46. Last year the amount was \$55,132.46. The roll was placed in the sheriff's hands last year, February 23.

The driver of the Vale-Ontario stage, on arriving at Vale one day last week, made the discovery that a mail pouch containing registered packages had been cut open and robbed of its contents, but not the slightest clue to the perpetrator of the robbery was known.

Judge Thomas Smith, of Roseburg, has in his possession two gold coins called the "Beaver," on account of the beaver on the obverse side. These coins were struck by a firm at Oregon City in 1849. They are of gold and of the nominal value of \$5, but they could not be purchased of the judge for "five times their weight in gold."

The logging outfit that has been getting out logs in Benton county, for the pulp mills at Oregon City, has removed to the Kiger island, where all the balsam and white fir trees on the neighboring farms are to be cut and sent down the river. A raft containing 10,000 feet of logs was towed down the river last week.

Corey Bros. have established two new camps above Tongue point, making ten camps in all on that portion of the Astoria railroad line. Four of these are operated by the firm themselves, while the others are in charge of subcontractors. Between 350 and 400 men are now employed, and it is estimated that the first ten miles of road will be ready for the iron in about two months.

Washington. There are 430 inmates of the Walla Walla penitentiary. The First National bank of Sprague will follow the machine shops to Spokane.

Seventy-five bales of hops were sold in Chehalis last week at 2 cents a pound. Colonel Ninevah Ford is, it is said, preparing to write a history of Walla Walla and Umatilla counties.

The Tacoma Smelting & Refining Company shipped 3,300 bars of bullion during January, valued at \$55,913.76. Spokane stationary engineers are laying plans for securing the passage by the legislature of a state license law. In spite of the assaults made upon

them there, Chinese are again employed on the railroad section at Kennewick.

The Adams County Immigration Association has been organized amid much enthusiasm. W. K. Kennedy was elected president.

The health authorities at Spokane are making war on dairymen suspected of selling impure milk. Three prominent dealers have been arrested.

Auditor Schooley, of Lewis county, has determined not to draw any more warrants against the county general or road and bridge fund until the county's indebtedness is within the legal limit.

An effort will be made by Port Blakeley stevedores to float the British ship Kilbrannan, now aground at Port Wilson, near Port Townsend.

Snow fell to the depth of seventeen inches in two hours at Martin, in Kititas county, last Saturday, making ten feet now on the ground there.

The shingle men of the state, says the Post-Intelligencer, are holding well together in their determination not to resume work until about March 1.

Seattle has offered Magnolia bluffs to the federal government as a site for an army post, with an offer of reduced rates for city water and transportation on the electric road.

The supreme court has decided that a boom company cannot compel loggers along the river in which is the company's boom to boom their logs and pay the company the boomage.

The jam on the Colville river near Springfield, is to be removed. This will give better transportation facilities to settlers on at least 1,000 acres of the best land in the Colville valley.

Judge Arthur, of Spokane, has decided that the collections on the taxroll for any year are properly usable for the current expenses of that year, without regard to former indebtedness.

The agent of the bureau of associated charities at Seattle tells some strange stories of families living in dire straits in that city who are well connected and have relatives in the city worth \$100,000.

Arrangements are being made whereby water will be taken from the Snake river to irrigate 1,000 acres of Franklin county land. It is expected that the canal will be completed in time for the ground to be seeded in the spring.

Preparations are being made to establish a cold storage and meat-packing plant in Walla Walla. The total cost of land, machinery and buildings will be about \$30,000. It is expected that an average of 350 hogs a day will be slaughtered.

The opposition looking to the reduction of the price of salmon has culminated in the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union addressing a letter to the seiners along the river, and also up-river fishermen, asking them to combine to resist any attempt at reducing the price of raw fish.

The Whatcom county shingle output for 1995 was 488,600,000, of an estimated value of \$488,500. There are forty-five mills in the county, employing on an average 947 men in various capacities, and disbursing \$366,283 for labor. In addition the lumber mills paid \$105,000 for labor, making a total of \$471,283 by the lumber industry, from a total of \$761,252 wages earned in the county.

Idaho. The Northern Pacific railway has just issued a valuable folder that is devoted exclusively to the Nez Perce reservation.

The bicyclists of Boise have petitioned the council for permission to ride on sidewalks between November 1 and May 1 at four to eight mile gait.

The Ruby Creek mining district in Northern Idaho bids fair to make a good showing the coming season. Several properties, notably among which are the Grey Eagle, the Silver King, the Big Blue Bird and the Happy Three mines, show some very high assays in gold and but very little silver. Mining men who have visited the district lately speak well of the mineral possibilities.

It is understood that the contract of M. J. Shields, of Moscow, on the industrial school building has been declared forfeited by the government after one or two extensions of time and indications of an early and satisfactory completion of the work. It is currently said that Jim Smith, of Moscow, has been placed in charge of the building and will complete it as superintendent for the government.

Montana. The value of beef cattle shipped from Montana during the past year exceeded that of the previous year by over \$1,000,000.

Coal has been discovered near Hinsdale, about eighteen miles from Glasgow, which is said to be of a good coking grade and in great abundance.

A number of Moscow citizens interested in mining have organized a branch of the Northwest Mining Association. The branch has a membership of thirty.

An improved miners cage is reported from Montana, the principal features being a method of doing away with the accidents to life and limb and the destruction of property in mines using the old-style chairs.

Very flattering reports come from Pony regarding the recent great strike made in the 700-foot level of the Clipper mine in that city. Shipments to Butte and Helena prove this to be probably the richest large body of ore ever discovered in the West. This mine is among the twenty-five claims under option to an English syndicate, and it is expected that the purchase price will be paid in a short time.

FIELD. FARM, GARDEN

USEFUL INFORMATION CONCERNING FARM WORK.

Preparing Strawberries for Fruiting—The Care of Hens in Cold Weather—The Enormous Output of Bogus Butter—Miscellaneous.

Fine berries and large crops depend so much upon the treatment the plants receive the spring of fruiting that no one can afford to neglect them then, says a correspondent of the Farmer's Voice. Where the soil is free from weed seed the matter is vastly simplified. But such soil is not always to be had; and the richer the soil the more apt it is to be infested with weeds.

Subdue the weeds by running shallow cultivator down middles as early in spring as practicable. Scrape around and between plants with small, well-sharpened weeding hoes, which will remove all weeds and not cut deep enough to injure roots. Then apply over rows, plants and all, about 500 pounds an acre of highly soluble commercial fertilizer rich in potash; stable manure, and unbleached wood ashes, if to be had in sufficient quantities are excellent. Ten good loads of manure and fifty bushels of ashes an acre will do, scattered over and around the plants; the ashes on top as they hasten the action of the manure.

Remember that almost anything can be safely scattered over and on strawberry plants while in dormant state—while not growing. Should the application be unavoidably delayed till growth begins, it should be applied just before a rain, which will wash it off the leaves into the ground; or it can be scattered around and between the plants. Where the soil is not so infested with weeds as to need much scraping, the manure and ashes are best applied late the previous fall. If weeds appear after the fertilizer is applied they must be dug out, or removed by hand, so as not to draw the fertilizer or manure from the plants.

The weeds well overcome apply mulching. It is best to scatter it over and let the plants grow up through it. The berries then form above the mulch and keep perfectly clean. Pine needles (ten loads an acre) are best. But any straw or hay chopped small enough not to blow off will answer. With plenty of manure no mulch is needed. Take the advice of an old grower of strawberries: Keep your fields clean, manure them well, and, unless your varieties are worthless, you will not fall of your reward.

Bogus Butter. The produce exchange of Chicago gives the following figures on bogus butter: In 1894, in the United States, there were manufactured 70,000,000 pounds of oleomargarine, equal to the product of 500,000 cows, of which in Illinois were made about 60,000,000 pounds, equal to the product of 450,000 cows. During the above period the agricultural producer for the raw material entering into a pound of butter received 16 cents, while under the same conditions for the raw material entering into a pound of oleomargarine he received three cents.

This difference represents a loss of 18 cents on every pound of oleomargarine sold and consumed as butter—over \$8,000,000 in the United States and \$7,500,000 in Illinois. It is a conservative estimate that 80 to 95 per cent of the oleo consumed, is consumed as and for butter at the price of butter. Every pound of the oleo consumed takes the place of and destroys the sale of a pound of butter. It is further true that it is the yellow color, or the shade of yellow color artificially given to oleo that enables it to be sold and consumed as butter at the price of butter. In other words, it is the means whereby the fraud is committed and the public deceived.

Hens in Cold Weather. Certainly, hens relish a "hot mess" in the cold mornings of autumn and winter. Bran or meal scalded with boiling water and mixed with scraps from the table makes an excellent breakfast for them. Boiled potatoes, which at present prices are not dear food, makes a capital change. If they have their freedom, they find a considerable quantity of forage until the ground freezes hard, but liberal feeding is also required to bring eggs. In the flock best known to the writer, fresh bones seem to have the most immediate effect of any tidbit that can be offered. With excellent care and a warm shelter there is really no difficulty in having eggs in moderate profusion at all seasons.

Miscellaneous. The cow ought to be kept neat and comfortable if you expect her to give you good returns. The Plymouth rocks are an excellent fowl for the farmer, as they are good foragers, lay well, make good mothers, have fair size and mature quickly. Those who would thoroughly appreciate the beauty, profit and pleasure of the thoroughbred fowl should be sure to get the best that money can buy or skill produce. Careful attention must be given daily to the cows, so far as ventilation and sanitary conditions are concerned. The cows must be healthy; if they are not they must be discarded. We have burned thousands of tons of straw, when every pound of it should have been returned to the land upon which it grew and plowed under to fertilize and loosen the soil.

It is well known that certain plants which are only shrubs in some places become large trees in other places; sometimes the difference depending on climate and sometimes on other circumstances.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Produce receipts during the past week were not heavy. The egg market is steady and unchanged. Dairy produce is in light supply and firm in price. The stock of poultry on hand is in excess of present requirements, and this, coupled with the weakness of the San Francisco market, and consequent shutting-off of shipments to that point, has given prices in the local market a downward tendency.

Wheat Market. The local wheat market is quiet but steady and unchanged. Exporters quote the following as extreme values here: Walla Walla, 60c; Valley, 63c per bushel. Some little business was done at these figures, but the majority of holders wanted 4c or 5c more.

Produce Market. FLOUR—Portland, Salem, Cascadia and Dayton, are quoted at \$3.15 per barrel; Goldrop, \$2.95; Snowflake, \$3.20; Benton county, \$3.15; graham, \$2.65; superfine, \$2.25.

BAKING—Good white are quoted weak, at 24c; milling, 28c@30c; gray, 21c@22c. Refined oats are quoted as follows: Bags \$4.25@5.25; barrels, \$4.50@7.00; cases, \$3.75.

HAY—Timothy, \$9.00 per ton; chest, \$6.00; clover, \$6.75; oat, \$6.65; wheat, \$5.50@6.50.

BARLEY—Feed barley, \$13.50 per ton; brewing, nominal.

MILKSTUTTS—Bran, \$13.00; shorts, \$14; middlings, \$18@20.00; rye, \$8@8.50 per cental.

BUTTER—Fancy creamery is quoted at 55c; fancy dairy, 45c; fair to good, 35c; common, 17c@20c per roll.

POTATOES—New Oregon, 30c@45c per sack; sweets, common, 3c; Mercet, 3c per pound.

ONIONS—Oregon, 60c@90c per sack.

POULTRY—Chickens, hens, \$3.50 per dozen; mixed, \$2.50@3.00 per dozen; ducks, \$4.00@6; geese, \$6.00; turkeys, live, 8c@9c per pound; dressed 11c@12c.

EGGS—Oregon, 12c per dozen.

CHEESE—Oregon half cream, 12c@13c per pound; mixed, \$2.50@3.00 per dozen; Young America, 10c@11c.

TRADING FRUIT—California lemons, \$3.00@3.50; choice, \$2.50@3.00; Sicily, \$2.50; bananas, \$1.75@2.50 per bunch; California navel, \$2.50@3.00 per box; pineapples, \$4.50 per dozen.

OREGON VEGETABLES—Cabbage, 1 1/2c per lb; garlic, new, 7c@8c per pound; artichokes, 7c per dozen; sprouts, 5c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.75 per dozen; 90c@1 per dozen; hot-house lettuce, 40c per dozen.

FRESH FRUIT—Pears, Winter Nellie, \$1.50 per box; cranberries, \$9 per barrel; fancy apples, \$1@1.75; common, 50c@75c per box.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, evaporated, bleached, 4c@4 1/2c; sun-dried, 3 1/2c@4c; pears, sun and evaporated, 5c@6c; plums, pitless, 3c@4c; prunes, 3c@5 per pound.

WOOL—Valley, 10c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 6c@8 1/2c.

HOPS—Choice, Oregon 4c@6c per pound; medium, neglected.

MEATS—Almonds, soft, shell, 9c@11c per pound; paper shell, 10c@12c; new crop California walnuts, soft shell, 11c@12c; standard walnuts, 12c@13c; Italian chestnuts, 12c@14c; pecans, 12c@16c; Brazil, 12c@13c; Alberta, 14c@15c; peanuts, raw, fancy, 6c@7c; roasted, 10c; hickory nuts, 8c@10c; coconuts, 9c per dozen.

PROVISIONS—Eastern hams, medium, 11 1/2c@12c per pound; hams, picnic, 7c; breakfast bacon 10c@10 1/2c; short clear sides, 8 1/2c@9c; dry salt sides, 7 1/2c@8c; dried beef hams, 12c@13c; lard, compound, in tins, 7 1/2c; lard, pure, in tins, 8 1/2c@10c; pigs' feet, 20c; \$3.50; pigs' feet, 40c, \$3.25; kits, \$1.25. Oregon smoked hams, 10c@12c per pound; pickled hams, 8c@9c; bonemeat hams, 7c; bacon, 10c@12c; dry salt sides, 6c; lard, 5-pound pails, 7 1/2c; 10c, 7 1/2c; 5c, 7 1/2c; terces, 7c. Country meats sell at prices according to grade.

HIDES.—Dry hides, butcher, sound, per pound, 11c@12c; dry kip and calf-skin, 10c@11c; culls, 3c less; salted, 6c lbs and over, 5c; 50 to 60 lbs, 4c@4 1/2c; 40 and 50, 4c; kip and veal skins, 10 to 30 lbs, 4c; calfskin, sound, 3 to 10 lbs, 6c; green, unsalted, 1c less; culls, 1-2c less; sheepskins, shear-lings, 10c@15c; short wool, 20c@30c; medium, 30c@40c; long wool, 50c@70c.

ICES—Island, \$4.50 per sack; Japan, \$4.00@4.50.

Merchandise Market. SALMON—Columbia, river No. 1, talls, \$1.25@1.60; No. 2, talls, \$2.25@2.50; fancy, No. 1, flats, \$1.75@1.85; Aaska, No. 1, talls, \$1.20@1.30; No. 2, talls, \$1.90@2.25.

BEANS—Small white, No. 1, 2 1/2c per pound; butter, 3c; bayou, 1 1/2c; Lima, 4c.

CORDAGE—Manilla rope, 1 1/2-inch, is quoted at 8 1/2c, and Sisal, 6 1/2c per pound.

BAKES—Canehta, 4 1/2c.

SUGAR—Golden C, 4 1/2c; extra C, 5c; dry granulated, 5 1/2c; cube crushed and powdered, 6 1/2c per pound; 1/2c per pound discount on all grades for prompt cash; half barrels, 1/2c more than barrels; maple sugar, 15c@16c per pound.

COFFEE—Costa Rica, 22c@23c; Rio, 20c@22c; Salvador, 21c@22c; Mocha, 29c@31c; Padang Java, 30c; Palembang Java, 26c@28c; Lahat Java, 23c@25c; Ar-buckle's Moksaka and Lion, \$21.80 per 100-pound case; Columbia, \$21.80 per 100-pound case.

COAL—Steady; domestic, \$5.00@7.50 per ton; foreign, \$8.50@11.00.

Meat Market. BEEF—Gross, top steers, \$3.25; cows, \$2.25@2.50; dressed beef, 4c@5 1/2c per pound.

MUTTON—Gross, best sheep, wethers, \$2.75; ewes, \$1.50@2.25; dressed mutton, 4 1/2c per pound.

VEAL—Gross, small, 5c@6c; large, 3c@4c per pound.

HOGS—Gross, choice, heavy, \$3.25@3.50; light and feeders, \$2.50@2.75; dressed, 3 1/2c@4c per pound.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS. FLOUR—Net cash prices: Family extras, \$4.00@4.10 per barrel; bakers' extra, \$3.80@3.90; superfine, \$3.65@3.10.

BARLEY—Feed, fair to good, 70c; choice, 72c; brewing, 85c.

WHEAT—Shipping, No. 1, \$1.12 1/2; choice, \$1.13 1/2; milling, \$1.22 1/2@1.27 1/2.

OATS—Milling, 75 1/2c@82 1/2c; surplus, 95c@1; fancy feed, 82 1/2c@87 1/2c; good to choice, 75c@82 1/2c; poor for lay, 65c@72 1/2c; gray, 75c@82 1/2c.

HOPS—Quotable at 3c@6c per pound.

POTATOES—Sweets, \$2.00@2.25; Burbank, Oregon, 35c@60c.

ONIONS—65c@85c per sack.