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LOWEST RATES TO ALL EASTERN CITIES.

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Leave for the East via Huntington daily, 9:00 p. m.
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Ocean Steamers Leave Portland Every 5 Days FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

Steamers Monthly from Portland to Yokohama and Hong Kong, via the Northern Pacific Steamship Co., in connection with the O. R. & N.

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W. H. HURLBURT, Gen. Passenger Agent, Portland, Oregon

WANTED - TRUSTWORTHY AND ACTIVE gentlemen or ladies to travel for responsible established house in Oregon. Monthly \$60 and expenses. Position steady. Reference. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. The Dominion Company, Dept. Y, Chicago.

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NO DANGER OF FAMINE

Portland Man Says There is Enough Food in Dawson.

STATEMENT OF C. J. CHRISTIE

He Left Dawson City November 23, After a Stay of Five Weeks - Some Work Going On.

Portland, Or., Jan. 3. - "There is no likelihood of starvation at Dawson City this winter. A few may be pinched a little before the river opens; but no one will actually suffer from hunger."

The foregoing statement of C. J. Christie, who left Dawson City November 23, and reached Portland yesterday, corroborates recent press dispatches. Mr. Christie, with a party of four other men and a woman, made the trip out from Dawson City in 23 1/2 days, which he says is the record. He left Portland on the first trip of the Elder, and spent five weeks at Dawson.

"When I left Dawson," he said, "everybody was comfortably fixed for the winter, so far as provisions were concerned. When the boats of the transportation companies were stuck, down the Yukon, the companies furnished transportation down the river for all that wished to go. To those who had money they sold provisions; to those who had no money, they gave work, which would enable them to buy what supplies they needed. Of course, this made fewer mouths to feed. Then many became frightened by early reports of a probable famine, and, selling their provisions, came out over the ice. This, of course, added to the supplies at Dawson.

"I found, when I reached there, October 18, that there was really a great deal of a scare. Reports had been spread by men who came out early that there were more supplies than needed, and this led to the fear that none would be brought in. This very panic led many to leave the country, and still further provided against famine.

"Everything was going along smoothly when I came out. Bonanza, Eldorado and Hunker creeks are all being worked for all they are worth, and the rich claims are all and more than have been reported. I have prospected a great deal and seen many rich finds, but Dawson City is the richest mining camp I ever saw. Numerous new discoveries are made right along. When I left, the Holmes boys, of Albin, had struck a claim from which it is said they were taking out an ounce to the pan.

"We had no difficulty coming out, though the ice is 'up-ended' in the river, and it is the roughest place imaginable. The anchor ice which formed in the bottom of the stream has risen in great masses, and is piled in all kinds of fantastic shapes.

"There were six of us in the party - one woman and five strong, hardy men. We used dogs to transport our freight. I had cached provisions along the way, as I went in with the expectation of coming out immediately, and these were a great aid to us. Once or twice we had to buy a little food for the dogs. We went right up the Yukon and over Chilkoot summit to Dyes. The temperature fell sometimes as low as 65 degrees below zero, but I didn't suffer from the cold as much as I would with it 5 below here."

Christie purchased several claims while in Dawson for himself and his partners in Portland. He will return to Dawson as soon as he can make arrangements to do so.

ROBINSON'S RECOMMENDATION

Says Dawson Can Easily Be Reached by Taking Skagway Trail.

Washington, Jan. 3. - Secretary Alger has received two reports from Captain Robinson, the contract quartermaster at Seattle, touching the respective merits of the different trails from the seaboard into the Klondike country. He made a thorough inquiry at the direction of the secretary, and in substance his conclusions, reached after conference with Jack Dalton and other experts, is that the Dalton trail is not well adapted to the uses of the government expedition during the winter, but that the Skagway route is probably the best. The captain says he has had an interview with one man who claims to have 70,000 pounds of beef stored at Lake Bennett which he is willing to sell at \$1 a pound. The same man says he has 10,000 pounds of corn and 20 or 80 horses at the same place, with which he proposes to organize a sled train into Dawson. Captain Robinson says himself that his opinion is that the difficulty of reaching Dawson has been very much exaggerated, and that a good army officer could make his way with an expedition. Montana horses should be used.

Pilot Steamer Smith Seized.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 3. - The Pensacola pilot steamer Smith, supposed to be engaged in a filibustering expedition, was seized today by agents of the treasury department. A crew from the revenue cutter Seward went aboard the steamer tonight, and a gang of men is transferring her coal from one bunker to another in search of contraband cargo.

Pensioners in the Postoffice.

Washington, Jan. 3. - The postoffice department has ruled that an ex-Union soldier drawing a pension under the dependent pension law may be reinstated in a position he formerly occupied in the service. The case arose in accordance with the employment of a veteran in the postoffice. In order to secure a pension under the dependent pension act, he must swear that he is without means of support and is unable to do manual labor.

RETURNED KLONDIKERS.

They Confirm the Stories of a Scarcity of Provisions.

Port Townsend, Wash., Jan. 4. - Forty-five Klondikers arrived tonight on the steamer Corona, from Skagway and Dyea. They brought no late news, as all of them left Dawson previous to November 25. In reference to the food situation, they confirm the stories of last week's arrivals that there will be no famine this winter, although provisions are scarce. It will be necessary, however, they think, to get supplies in early in the spring, as the stock on hand will be pretty well exhausted by the time the Yukon opens for navigation. Among those coming from Dawson were Dr. Van Sant, of Peoria, Ill.; Allen R. Joy, of Portland, Or., and A. E. Murphy and James E. Kelly, of Helena, Mont.

The trip out was a very hard one, on account of the extreme cold, the thermometer ranging 50 to 70 below. At Lake Tagish, several parties were caught in a snow storm. The ice along the river is piled up as high as 15 feet, and only the best dog teams can get over it. Many outfits which started down in boats were met along the river, frozen in, where they will have to remain until the ice goes out. A party of mounted police, with 16 horses and 20 tons of provisions, were met along the river, on the way down to the Big Salmon, where Major Walsh is waiting for them.

John Kill, of Seattle, one of the party arriving on the Corona, was robbed at Fort Selkirk, November 30, of \$8,500 worth of gold dust, the proceeds of a cattle sale at Dawson last summer. J. B. Elmore, of Idaho, and G. W. F. Johnson, of Juneau, were arrested on the charge of having stolen the gold, but were discharged after examination by Judge McGuire.

The town council of Skagway has adopted a set of resolutions protesting against the abolishment of the support of Dyea. The resolutions set forth that the duty collected since the establishment of the port amounts to \$5,000, and that the revenue to be derived in the next 12 months will probably exceed \$20,000.

People are pouring into Skagway and Dyea on every steamer. Hotels and lodging-houses are taxed to their full capacity. If the influx continues at the present rate, accommodations will be out of the question within two weeks, it is thought.

The trails across the mountains are not in good condition at present, owing to rains and warm weather on the coast and deep snows on the summit. The estimates of the amount of gold brought down on the Corona differ widely. They range all the way from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Dr. Van Sant and party of eight are said to have \$80,000.

AMERICAN FLAG BURNED.

The Act of Drunken British Flunkies on the St. Louis.

New York, Jan. 4. - The World says: Captain William G. Randle and Chief Officer Beckwith, of the American line steamship St. Louis, which arrived in port yesterday, spent much of their time during the trip across the Atlantic investigating a story which made every American on board indignant. The story relates to the burning of an American flag by British stewards, who were on the steamer during the passage. The investigation has been nearly completed, and it was announced on board the St. Louis that as a result several members of the crew will be discharged from the service of the American line today.

The burning of the flag occurred on Christmas day, at the dinner of the stewards. One of the stewards lighted a match and held it to the American flag.

"Burn it," some of the stewards are said to have shouted. Then followed a general tumult. The Stars and Stripes were burning from every corner. "The matter is still under investigation," said Second Officer Campbell. "I am sorry that the matter should become public. It was simply the act of a lot of drunken flunkies. Action will be taken tomorrow."

WRITTEN IN BLOOD.

Desperate Attempt of an Embezzler to Commit Suicide.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 4. - Mac Mabray, the embezzling agent of the Southern Express Company, at Brunswick, Ga., who was captured here Saturday, attempted to commit suicide in his cell in the police station during the night. This morning he was found lying in a pool of blood. He was unconscious, and was at first thought to be dead. He had opened an artery in his wrist with a penknife. He was taken to a hospital, where he is kept under guard. The physicians say he will recover in a day or two.

Before he became too weak to move, Mabray smeared his open hand with the blood and stamped the imprint of the hand on the wall of his cell. Underneath he wrote in blood with his finger, "Southern Express Company, December 19, 1897," the date he committed the robbery, and below he drew a skull and crossbones in blood.

Bread Riots in Sicily.

Rome, Jan. 4. - The Tribune reports that bread riots have occurred in the province of Girgenti, Sicily. The rioters fired upon and looted the municipal buildings. The troops have been called out.

Sash and Door Plant Burned.

Buffalo, Jan. 4. - The sash and door plant and burning mill of J. Hamilton & Co. was burned tonight, with an immense stock of lumber. The total loss is \$120,000, the insurance \$70,000.

Fruit went to waste in California orchards because the growers could not get men to pick it. Yet the state is overrun with tramps.

FRUITGROWERS' CONVENTION.

Annual Meeting to Be Held in Portland January 11, 12 and 13, 1898.

The arrangements for the meeting of the Northwestern Fruitgrowers' Association, for the state of Oregon, Idaho, Washington and British Columbia, which will be held in Portland, January 11, 12 and 13, 1898, are well under way.

The committees upon whom the success of this meeting depends are:

Executive committee - Buell Lamberson, chairman; Henry E. Dosh, secretary-treasurer; H. M. Williamson, L. M. Spiegel, Alfred Tucker and Frank Lee.

Transportation - A. H. Devers, H. R. Lewis and T. D. Honeyman.

Finance - L. M. Spiegel, Edward Hughes, David M. Dunne, J. H. Hazeltine and Mark Levy.

Exhibit - F. H. Page, John A. Bell, W. F. Carroll, Mark Levy, M. L. Harvey, and one from each county and fruit district within the territory covered by the association.

Arrangements - C. V. Coper, H. M. Williamson, Frank Lee, E. C. Masten and Alfred Tucker.

Chairman Buell Lamberson and Secretary Henry E. Dosh of the executive committee, will act as ex-officio members of the sub-committees.

The meetings heretofore held by this association at Walla Walla and North Yakima were very successful, being not alone profitable to those attending the meetings, but beneficial to the entire fruit interests. Representative men from far and near were present to discuss the various phases of the growing industry.

The foregoing committees are fully alive to the situation and are now actively at work to make it surpass any of the prior meetings held. Already many letters have been received by the chairman and secretary from various cities within the limits of the association, as well as from other states, from St. Paul, Omaha and Chicago, asking about reduced transportation rates.

The transportation companies with the usual courtesy extended to this association, have made the rate on the Northern Pacific, Great Northern, and Union Pacific lines, one and one-fifth fare; and on the Southern Pacific line one and one-third fare for the round trip. The apparent difference of rates is caused by the Southern Pacific's lower tariff rate, it being only four cents per mile as against a five-cent per mile rate of the other companies. They have also expressed a willingness to transport all legitimate exhibits of fruits, both fresh and evaporated, trees, etc., free of charge. Such exhibits should be carefully labeled, packed and shipped to Buell Lamberson, 180 Front street, Portland, on or before January 5.

The programme, which is now being arranged and will be published later, will cover all the questions pertaining to the fruit interests, notably the shipping of fresh fruits to Eastern markets at a profit to the grower. This will be thoroughly discussed, especially the charges by refrigerator car companies, which must be adjusted on a live-and-let-live basis.

Gray's Harbor Lumber Shipments.

That the Gray's harbor country has enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity during the year 1897 is shown by the foreign lumber shipments as compared with those of 1896, the increase being nearly 300 per cent. In 1896, only 11 vessels with lumber sailed from that harbor for foreign ports, the aggregate amount of lumber being 3,400,000 feet, while during the present year 23 vessels cleared from Gray's harbor, carrying 10,649,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$110,000.

Of the 22 vessels clearing for foreign ports from Gray's harbor during the present year, 16 of them loaded at the mills in Aberdeen - 14 at the West & Slade mill, with cargoes amounting in the aggregate to 5,328, feet, and two at Wilson Bros. & Co.'s mill, whose cargoes aggregated 975,000. The E. K. Wood mill at Hoquiam, shipped four cargoes foreign, 2,782,000 feet, and the Northwestern Lumber Company two cargoes, aggregating 1,600,000 feet.

Most of this lumber went to Mexican ports, although Honolulu received several cargoes, while Africa, New Caledonia, Australia, and Peru each received one cargo. At the present time the mills have orders for foreign cargoes of lumber, and the owners anticipate that the 1898 foreign trade will greatly exceed that of 1897.

Northwest Notes.

The presiding elders of the Methodist Episcopal church, comprising all the elders in the Pacific Northwest, will hold a convention in Spokane on the 11th, 12th and 13th of January, 1898. Bishop Cranston, of Portland, will preside.

A logger at Seaside, Or., says that he proposes to put in 9,000,000 feet of logs before the end of the freshest season next year. The timber will be taken from the Southan, Bracker, Eberman, Gearhart and Starr places, near Holiday Park.

Hops in Yakima seem to be a drug on the market, notwithstanding high quotations elsewhere. Local buyers say that choice grades can easily find sale at 12 1/2 cents, but they maintain that only one or two choice lots remain in the valley, and that the best of the poorer qualities left are not worth more than from 9 to 10 cents.

B. M. Pulse, of Suver, Benton county, Or., sold his hop crop, 8,365 pounds, last week. Three-fourths of it went for 9 1/2 cents, and the remainder for 5 cents a pound. John Patterson, of the same neighborhood, has shipped, on consignment, about 10,000 pounds, receiving a cash advance of 7 1/2 cents for best, and 5 cents per pound for second quality. George Ruth, of Suver, has sold about 12,000 pounds at 12 1/2 cents. Mr. Pulse has begun the cultivation of his nine-acre yard for next year.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

(Office of Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers, 717 1/2 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.)

What will Leiter do with his wheat, is the question that is evidently bothering traders more than it is him. He has about 8,000,000 bushels cash wheat. He is also long about 4,000,000 bushels May. He has wheat enough to make him the power in the market, and it depends upon how he handles it as to the extent of his profit or loss. If trade falls off he will be forced to keep the market alive, as he did during October and November, by trading on both sides. If outside speculation increases he will certainly have the best of it. There is a large shortage in May, which gives him a chance to scalp the market on a liberal scale to his profit. There is talk of trade getting into July, and leaving May alone. This might help the short sellers by prolonging the time of delivery, but figuring on the probable stocks, the chances for large supplies by the last of July are decidedly poor for a bear. Were the trade to switch to September and leave the intervening months alone, Leiter would be left with his cash and May in a position where it would not be easy to swing a large line at a profit, and the wheat might have to be shipped out to find a market for it. All these questions are being discussed by the traders and nearly every one has a different theory.

Those who stand between the speculator and consumer, the cash handlers and the millers, are almost to a man bullish on wheat, and are talking higher prices, some predicting \$1.25 for May. Armour and Weare expect that Leiter will win out in good shape. They figure on the milling demand reaching such proportion that, combined with the export business, it will absorb the stocks so readily in the season that the cash holders can dictate prices. The question of supply and demand becomes a factor. This, however, has not always in the past been a benefit to the bulls. Last winter and spring the cash demand was heavy, stocks were light, but the visible was 2,000,000 bushels more than at present. Millers bought the wheat readily and decreased prices steadily, but in the face of the reduction prices did not respond, owing to the lack of speculation. A supply and demand market is generally a slow affair, and it may not be an exception this year.

Portland Market.

Wheat - Walla Walla, 74@75c; Valley and Bluestem, 77@78c per bushel.

Four - Best grades, \$4.25; grahams, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel.

Oats - Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel.

Barley - Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton.

Millstuffs - Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$18.

Hay - Timothy, \$12.50@13; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs - 17 1/2 @ 22 1/2 c per dozen.

Butter - Fancy creamery, 55@60c; fair to good, 45@50c; dairy, 40@50c per roll.

Cheese - Oregon, 11 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry - Chickens, mixed, \$1.75@2.25 per dozen; broilers, \$2.00@2.50; geese, \$5.50@6.50; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10c per pound.

Potatoes - Oregon Burbanks, 25@45c per sack; sweets, \$1.25 per cask.

Onions - Oregon, new, red, 90c; yellow, 80c per cask.

Hops - 5@14c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c.

Wool - Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@8c; mohair, 20@22c per pound.

Mutton - Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50; dressed mutton, 0 1/2c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound.

Hogs - Gross, choice heavy, \$4.00; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds.

Beef - Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3.00; cows, \$2.50; dressed beef, 4 1/2@6c per pound.

Veal - Large, 4 1/2@5c; small, 5 1/2@6c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Butter - Fancy native creamery, brick, 28c; ranch, 16@18c.

Cheese - Native Washington, 13c; California, 9 1/2c.

Eggs - Fresh ranch, 25c.

Poultry - Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3.00; ducks, \$3.50@3.75.

Wheat - Feed wheat, \$22 per ton.

Oats - Choice, per ton, \$19@20.

Corn - Whole, \$23; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$23 per ton.

Barley - Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22.

Fresh Meats - Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5 1/2c; mutton sheep, 7c; pork, 6c; veal, small, 7c.

Fresh Fish - Halibut, 5@6c; salmon, 3c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2@4c.

Fresh Fruit - Apples, 50@90c per box; peaches, 75@80c; prunes, 35@40c; pears, 75c@81c per box.

San Francisco Market.

Wool - Nevada 11@13c; Oregon, 12@14c; Northern 7@8c per pound.

Hops - 12 1/2@16c per pound.

Millstuffs - Middlings, \$20@23; California bran, \$17.50@18.50 per ton.

Onions - New red, 7@8c; do new silverskin, \$2.00@2.25 per cask.

Eggs - Store, 22 1/2c; ranch, 27@31c; Eastern, 15@19c; duck, 16c per dozen.

Citrus Fruit - Oranges, navels, \$1.50@2.75; Mexican lemons, \$4.00@4.50; California lemons, choice, \$2.25@2.50; do common, 50c@1.25 per box.

Cheese - Fanny mild, new, 12 1/2c; fair to good, 7@8c per pound.

Potatoes - New, in boxes, 35@55c.