

# The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, JANUARY 21, 1903.

B. F. IRVINE  
Editor and Proprietor.

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### A MONSTER CANNON.

SHOOTS TWENTY MILES PROJECTILE WEIGHING TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED.

Requires six Hundred and Forty Pounds Powder for Single Discharge—After four Months Nap the Girl Still Sleeps Strange Case—Other News.

New York, Jan. 17.—The most powerful gun ever built in America, a huge 16 inch coast defence rifle, was successfully tested at the Government proving grounds, Sandy Hook, today. The gun was fired three times in the course of the afternoon, in the presence of several hundred Army officers, a few civilians and one representative of the Legislative branch of the Government.

The three tests were marked by the wonderful accuracy with which they fulfilled the mathematical calculations of the Army experts who have had charge of the gun's construction. The three shots also proved that the special smokeless powder made for 16-inch guns had been accurately prepared.

The first shot was a sort of "warmer". The charge was 550 pounds of smokeless powder, and the velocity of the 2400-pound projectile when it left the muzzle was 2003 feet a second. The pressure of the great charge of powder in exploding was 25,000 pounds to the square inch.

For the second shot the full charge of 640 pounds of powder was used, and the velocity was 2306, or six feet more than calculated. The pressure was 38,000 pounds to the square inch. The elevation of the gun's muzzle for the first and second shots was 1 1/2 degrees, and the ranges were 3000 and 3500 yards.

For the final shot the muzzle was elevated to 4 1/2 degrees increasing the range to 700 yards. The velocity of this shot was not taken. The charge was 640 pounds of smokeless powder, and the pressure was 38,500 pounds to the square inch. All the shots ricocheted two or three times on the water, sending up great fountains of spray.

General Crozier said that the tests showed that the gun was an absolute success and proved that 16-inch guns could be furnished whenever the country wanted them. Whether any more will be built is a question. Congressman Gillette and several officers present doubted that any more would ever be built a number of smaller guns being considered more effective than the one enormous gun.

The gun fired today cost \$100,000. It was said at the tests that the gun would undoubtedly be mounted at Sandy Hook. General Crozier said that, while its range at its highest elevation was about 20 miles, it could be used to hit objects only at a distance of four or five miles. Objects further away could not be seen.

Centralia, Ill., Jan. 10.—Lying on an old trundled bed in a side room of a little old brick house in the edge of the city is young Dora Meeks, the girl who is calmly sleeping her life away. She has been sleeping most of the time since September 28 last, and has been roused only at short intervals. She is now pale and wan and though seemingly no worse, she has gained nothing and only once has she been able to get up and dress, going back to sleep almost immediately.

The physicians are puzzled over the case. They pronounce it hysteria, but it seems peculiar it should be so prolonged. Many theories have been advanced as to the trouble, but the conclusion generally reverts back to that of hysteria.

For a time she took no nourishment, but now she eats every day. The physicians seem to think she will get well, though just why she will get either worse or better they seem unable to tell. There are those who think the girl is playing a part in extending the sleep, as the neighbors are kind and bring in much food, and the City Poor Relief Association is looking after the needs of the family of seven. The father is about 70 years old and too old to work. Besides a \$17 pension he draws from Uncle Sam for

services in the civil war the family has no other means of support, though they own a small farm in the northern part of Marion county.

The mother said she felt hopeful of her daughter's recovery, and she was at a loss to understand what was the matter, as the girl, who is now 17 years old, had always been in good health, except for a ten days' sleep she had a year ago last fall. The trouble then, as now, was over a falling out with her lover.

At that time she was missed, and later found in the nearby woods lying behind a log fast asleep and nearly frozen to death. She was revived with great difficulty, but after about ten days of unconsciousness she revived and appeared in as good health as ever.

Miss Meeks was working in a restaurant last fall and keeping company with a young man. On Sunday afternoon, September 28, they quarreled and the girl became hysterical and fell over asleep. She was carried to her room and medical aid called, but it was impossible to rouse her and she lay practically lifeless for three days until she was suddenly roused by one of the doctors. She jumped quickly, looked up, but almost immediately lapsed into unconsciousness again. Several physicians were called and her parents, who were at that time living on their farm, came here, and with the assistance of charity began house-keeping.

Everything has been tried, Osteopaths, hypnotists, and Spiritualists, with the regular medical fraternity, have had their trial, but most of them have failed even to gain her attention.

Her pulse has been 84 lately and her temperature normal. Sunday, December 28, she had another sinking spell, and her temperature ran up to 120, but it is now normal, and as the girl is taking nourishment the hope is entertained that she will round into complete consciousness again. The only time she is said to have smiled was when her lover was with her and held her hand. She seemed then to realize his presence, but it was only for a moment.

There have been many parallel cases, but there has also been something organically wrong that caused the unconscious state. Only a few weeks ago a woman in St. Louis by the name of Mrs. Abernathy fell asleep and could not be roused, but it was found there was a small clot of blood on her brain, and when that was removed she was all right again. With Miss Meeks nothing unusual has been found to give a clue to the cause of the trouble, and the physicians here, nearly all of whom have been called in, seem to be completely baffled. The girl is not in a trance, but is just quietly sleeping her life away.

New York, Jan. 16.—Not a pound of railroad coal could be had in the city yesterday. Thirty thousands of tons arrived but it was all high-priced independent coal, which sold for \$10.50 cents f. o. b., which means 50 cents additional cost for each ton before it could be brought to this side of the river.

There was great indignation because none of the dealers could obtain the \$5 road coal. The sales agents of the railroad companies were asked where the \$5 coal was, who got it, or if any of it could be obtained. They gave evasive answers. The dealers were therefore compelled to buy the independent coal at 10.50, or go without it.

San Francisco, Jan. 17.—Beginning July 1st, book and job printers will have an eight-hour work day. The Typographical Union yesterday adopted the recommendations of the committee whose report provides that book- and job printers shall receive an increase in wages of 50 cents a week and a decrease in time of fifteen minutes a day. A like increase and decrease will take place at the beginning of each subsequent six months until they will receive \$20 a week for an eight-hour working day.

The action of the union closes this controversy with exception of signing a formal agreement with the employers.

**J. P. Huffman**  
Architect

Office in Zierolf Building, Hours from 8 to 5. Corvallis Oregon

### STEALING COAL.

EASTERN TOWNSPEOPLE CONFISCATE COAL FROM PASSING TRAIN.

How They did it at Arcola Illinois—Two Women Whose Bones Become Brittle and Break—Their Joints Become Stiff and Movement is Impossible.

Arcola, Ill., Jan. 11.—With a North Dakota blizzard howling over the place at fifty miles an hour and a drop in temperature of 50 degrees within 12 hours, the people of this hustling town of 2,000 inhabitants look upon the confiscation of nine carloads of coal belonging to the Illinois Central Railroad Company as providential.

"It was a godsend," declared Thomas Lyons, president of the State Bank, "if any one seeks to make trouble over the theft that person will be run out of Arcola."

"We needed the coal; people's lives were at stake," said S. L. Woodworth, manager of the Arcola Electric Light plant, "the fuel was simply confiscated by those who had the most urgent use for it. It was paid for, and order was observed in the summary process followed. We anticipate no legal trouble over the affair."

"The railroad company has no kick coming," asserted William J. Bradbury, who weighed the coal on his scales and took cash payment for it. "It got rid of a lot of inferior stuff at top prices. The money for every pound taken from the cars is in my possession, and will be turned over to the railroad officials." Mr. Bradbury is a member of the board of education and a coal dealer.

George Wall, a barber, was the first to solve the fuel problem. It was about 5 o'clock and still dark. Mounting a car, he threw down enough chunks to fill a wheelbarrow which he trundled home. He surprised his neighbors, and in a few moments a dozen figures were industriously at work laying in a supply of the precious fuel. The train crew ordered the marauders, but they refused to leave. Like wild-fire the news spread that there was plenty of coal to be had, and that every one was laying in a supply.

The emergency committee at once assumed charge of the distribution. William Bradbury was installed as weigher at his scales fifty yards away. Col. Beggs, formerly on Gov. Tanner's staff, became grand marshal and accountant.

"No one can have more than a ton. A fair distribution must be made. Every bit of coal must be weighed on Bradbury's scales and the cash paid to me upon delivery," shouted the colonel to the crowd. There were cheers of approval.

The Rev. Edward Beach, pastor of the Presbyterian church and past moderator of the Mattoon Presbytery ran up.

"I want some of that coal," he said. "The rectory's like a cold barn."

"I join with my colleague," declared the Rev. W. F. Prout, of the Free Methodist church.

Every one worked with desperate energy the first few hours. No one could tell when the engine from Champaign would arrive and haul away the precious cargo. Persons who could not secure teams carried off all they could get in boxes, barrels and baskets, and wheelbarrows and pushcarts did a thriving business. All proceeded to the Bradbury scales, where Col. Beggs held the crowd in line and received payment.

The cars were rapidly being emptied. Nearly every man in town made himself useful in disposing of the cargo. All morning and afternoon the operations continued uninterrupted. At six o'clock when most of the bins in the town had been supplied, 360 tons had been unloaded and delivered. A dealer figured that it would have taken one man and a team nine weeks to do the same work, with shifts of ten hours a day. About 8 o'clock P. M. the engine arrived from Champaign and hauled the train away. But Arcola had laid in a supply of coal that will last a week.

Hardly had the last load been carted off when the mercury began to descend. Six inches of snow fell

during the night, and this morning the fiercest blizzard of years was raging.

"Had it not been for yesterday's Providential interposition," said Banker Lyons today, "we should have been compelled to gather most of our people into churches and halls to prevent them from freezing to death, and to husband our scanty store of fuel. If any attempt is made to prosecute us over our humane provision, it will arouse a storm of indignation. We paid for what we got and paid well. I do not fear any sequence to our humane larceny."

The raiders did not forget the poor. Albert Snyder, one of the best-known real-estate agents of Central Illinois, stood responsible for a number of loads of coal, which were delivered to destitute widows and other unfortunate persons.

There were many pathetic scenes when women who have not known the comfort of sufficient heat for weeks, received enough coal to keep them in comfort for a month, with assurances from their benefactors that their wants in future will be attended to.

The emergency committee has \$1,400 in cash to turn over to the Illinois Central at the market price \$4 a ton. Last year the same grade of coal brought \$1.50 a ton.

New Bedford, Mass., Jan. 3.—A woman of this city who was the trained nurse of Mrs. Palmer, of Rome, N. Y. who, with her sister, Miss Stella Ewing, were known as ossified women has given to a world correspondent the truth about the strange afflictions, resulting recently in the death of Miss Ewing.

"While both of these sufferers," said she, "have been spoken of, even in the city in which they lived as the petrified or ossified women, or as having turned to bone, this is incorrect. Their flesh was as soft to the touch, and as sensitive as a little child's, the smallest wrinkle in the clothing coming in contact with the flesh causing them the greatest discomfort.

"The peculiar form of disease, from which they suffered caused the bones of the body to become brittle, very much after manner of bone subjected to weather or to fire. The joints of the body gradually stiffened so that the slightest movement was impossible. Total blindness was another form of the disease.

"Born on a farm not far from the city of Rome, of highly respected parents, their childhood and womanhood gave no hint of the disease they were to suffer from later in life. Mrs. Palmer was a beautiful woman both in face and character, and now after years of a living death retains much of her former beauty.

"She is educated and well informed on all current topics of the day and enjoys a large correspondence, thanks to kind friends, some of whom are always at her disposal. She is a fine conversationalist and of a deeply religious nature; accepting the state she is in with sweet recognition. A few years ago she had the misfortune to be thrown from her reclining chair, breaking her right arm. It has never been set, nor can it be, owing to the condition of the bone. The rigidity of the body is due wholly to the stiffened joints. The setting of the jaws made removal of the teeth necessary.

"Miss Stella Ewing was employed as a nurse at the State Hospital for the Insane previous to her illness. She was possessed of many fine qualities of head and heart, and made many friends. She was engaged to be married to the chemist employed at the hospital, but released him from his promise becoming convinced that her affliction was of the same nature as her sister's. Both used reclining chairs built especially for their use as to lie on a bed was impossible.

"A few years ago an eye specialist performed an operation on Mrs. Palmer's eyes, hoping that her sight might be in a measure restored, but the operation was not successful.

"Both Mrs. Palmer and Miss Ewing were always daintily and attractively gowned. People throughout the United States have interested themselves in the sisters, and many valuable gifts have found their way to them from all over the land, giving them much substantial aid."



### ENGRAVING

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### NEW YEAR'S TABLE DELICACIES

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**P. M. ZIEROLF**

Times Office for Job Printing.