

THE TOPKUK STRIKE

May Afford Lasting Winter Gold Diggings.

19 CREEK CLAIMS KNOWN TO BE RICH

Real Estate Valuations in Some City Are High—One Man's Opinion of the Mining Camp.

PENDLETON, Or., June 27.—Henry F. Pierce, formerly a successful farmer in this county, now owning a fine farm near Pendleton, Cal., has been in the city under date of May 21, the letter having just arrived here. It was brought out by the captain of the Alpha. Mr. Pierce is a student of the law, and has been in the city since the late of the year, and is now in the city being spent in looking over the mining camp.

"The ground on the tundra is frozen to an unknown depth, just as at Dawson, so that if this proves to be rich, it will mean winter diggings. The permanency of this claim depends upon this and the beach diggings, or the discovery of quartz.

"There are 15 creek claims known to be rich, and beyond these absolutely nothing is known. Yet every foot of ground within 10 miles inland and for 10 miles up and down the coast is claimed. The most of it five times over. There are bad in most cases, and the owners will not prospect nor work the ground.

"These claim owners are in camp and wait for the 'chuckawars' (tenderfoot) to make discovery on options to buy or work. There are men here owning as many as 20 claims, 700 acres, who have never been out of the city since they came through the snow. The power of attorney has been much abused, and will retard the mineral development of Alaska for many years to come.

"Lots are held in Nome City at from \$2000 a front foot down to all sorts of figures. The only title is possession and a few shovels, and a man is gone from his home two hours to look at the mine. Some one's house on his land when he returns.

ELDER AND NOME CITY.

Both Steamers Left Dutch Harbor June 5, for Cape Nome.

Many of the steamers which left Portland for Cape Nome have already reached their destination, while others, according to latest reports, were still en route. The steamer leaving in Dutch Harbor were about of provisions, and the well-equipped Portland steamer, which was expected to arrive here on the 10th inst., was expected to arrive here on the 10th inst. The following letter, containing news of the fleet, was received yesterday by F. P. Baumgartner, agent of the California & Oregon Coast Steamship Company, from S. S. Freeman, who is at Dutch Harbor.

"Dutch Harbor, Alaska, June 17.—Arrived here at 5 P. M. today, after a very pleasant trip. I just came ashore, and as the steamer was expected to leave here in about an hour, will try and write you some interesting news.

"The harbor is full of vessels waiting for coal, but owing to the previous arrangements you had made for coaling in, will not have to take our turn in line, but will be coaled tomorrow and will leave here at daylight Tuesday for Nome.

"Captain Donaldson of the steamer Homer, now in port here, informs us that the steamer Fulton, which was loaded with our lighting plant, arrived at Nome O. R. The steamer Cape Nome, which is left here on the 10th inst., and is expected to arrive at Nome before this. The steamer Southland is reported in the ice. The steamer Gertrude got in the ice, and after several attempts to force her way through, was obliged to put back to Dutch Harbor, and will leave here again in a few days. The large Shinkum arrived here in tow of the tug Hester, and is expected to arrive here on the 10th inst. She will leave tomorrow. The steamers Chas. D. Lane and Sunol left here this evening for Nome.

Up to the 10th inst., there had been few arrivals at Nome, and the majority of the vessels that left here are still in the ice.

"News about our cargo. We got along splendidly, having lost only one horse and one sheep. Three head of beef cattle refused to eat, and were butchered by the owners and sold to good advantage to stevedores who were on the ship.

"Captain Donaldson informed us that a great many steamers, among them the Zealandia, Ronneke and San Pedro, were short of provisions, and the captain weighed out every passenger an allowance at every meal. He also states that the passengers on our line of steamers were the most satisfied of any arriving at Dutch Harbor, not a kick being heard from any of them, and nothing but praise for the treatment and grub they received.

"Captain Donaldson, with the steamer Homer, is plying between Dutch Harbor and the Pribyl Islands, and was the first to arrive here from San Francisco this year."

FARMING AROUND DYER.

Several Crops Do Well—Corn a Failure.

Skagway, Alaska.

William Workman is just now winning some fame as one of the most extensive farmers in this part of the country. In regard to his success in farming at Dyer, he says:

"I have 15 acres of oats which I planted the last of April and which are up about seven inches. They are as fine as any grown anywhere. The climate here is just right for growing oats.

"I have in six acres of potatoes which are also doing well, and are getting well above the ground. There are no frosts in the valley, and they naturally thrive. Moreover, they grow to a large size, and are fine, round and mealy. They are at all water, but are equal to the famous Yakima potatoes. I proved this last year. Last year I planted potatoes and some that were left in the ground continued to grow until as late as October 25, when the first frost killed them.

"Peas are now up three inches on my place. They grow to be just as good as can be raised anywhere. Lettuce and radishes and other such hardy vegetables also do well.

"As fine grass as I ever saw grows in and about Dyer, and is now a foot high. I have millet seed coming to plant there.

"Raspberries, currants and blackberries also do well in Dyer. Mrs. Wilson, who has been there for some time, has had decided success in growing them.

"I tried to grow corn, but failed. Corn cannot be grown in this part of the coun-

HIGH PRICE FOR SALMON

61-2 CENTS PAID FOR STEELHEADS AT ASTORIA.

For Whom This Is Paid Is Unknown, But Is a Factor of Material Disturbance.

ASTORIA, June 27.—When the present fishing season opened the cold-storage men decided upon 5 cents a pound as the price for steelheads and agreed faithfully to adhere to this price, so as to avoid an unprofitable contest among themselves. So far as can be ascertained, the cold-storage men have lived up to this agreement, and not one of them will say that the others have done otherwise. A few days ago, however, Richard Welcome, a local buyer, visited nearly all the selling grounds and offered to pay 6 1/2 cents

WHEAT OF CLACKAMAS.

Will Yield Two-Thirds of the Average Crop—New Insect Suspected.

OREGON CITY, June 27.—It is estimated, after interviewing fully 50 farmers from various sections of Clackamas County, that wheat will yield about two-

PRIZEWINNER AT WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY.

MISS CLARA CLARK, OF SALEM.

Miss Clark is but 19 years old, has just completed the freshman year at the Willamette University, and in a searching examination on constitutional history stood 88, thereby winning the Walter prize of \$20, offered by President Thomas M. Gatch, of the Oregon Agricultural College.

per pound for steelheads. He also notified all the fishermen who he met of the same offer, but he refused to tell for whom he was buying. All the sellers are under obligations to deliver their catches to the United States customs authorities, and he was unable to secure any from them, but he did purchase a few from the fishermen.

His actions attracted the attention of the cold-storage men, who handle all the steelheads caught, and they have endeavored to ascertain for whom Welcome was buying, but thus far have been unsuccessful, though they believe they have good grounds for a reliable suspicion.

Yesterday, Trescott & Co.'s launch met Welcome on the river and offered to sell him a ton of steelheads at 6 cents per pound, a half-cent less than he has been offering, but he refused to purchase them. Last night the cold-storage men had a boat follow Welcome to find out where he delivered the fish he had purchased from the fishermen, but he was too smart for them. He tracked around the river all the evening until about 11 o'clock he was lost sight of on Smith's Point.

The general belief is that the movement is at the instigation of some cannery or canneries that desire to raise the price of steelheads, and that it is all a bluff to gain that end.

For Uttering Forged Checks.

A young man by the name of James Wiley, alias James Anderson, was arrested here this afternoon on a charge of attempting to have forged checks cashed. He had been working in C. C. Masten's logging camp near Svensen under the name of James Wiley and Astoria yesterday afternoon, and under the name of James Anderson tried to have a Schlusser cash a check for \$50, drawn to his own order and signed C. C. Masten. A similar check for \$50 was presented to the First National Bank, but upon neither did he receive the money. Mr. Masten was sent for, and upon his arrival he pronounced the checks to be forged, and assisted the officers in arresting the man.

Labor Claims Compromised.

The claims against the Astoria Street Railway Company for salaries of employees contracted previous to the appointment of the receiver have been compromised on a basis of 75 per cent, and an order was filed in the Circuit Court today directing the receiver to pay them from the funds now in his hands. The full amount of the claims was \$105,785.

Clatsop County Notes.

County Treasurer Thompson will, in a few days, remit to the State Treasurer \$3000 on the state taxes of 1902. This will leave a balance of about \$5000 due the state. The Treasurer will also make a call shortly after the first of the month for \$1000 of warrants. It will include all those indebted prior to July 1, 1902.

While saving a log in his camp on Tucker Creek yesterday afternoon, Elmer Warratt severed the main artery in his right wrist. He was brought to this city for medical attention, and although his leg is weakened by the loss of blood, he is out of danger.

Lieutenant Commander R. E. Davis, of the Oregon Naval Reserve, inspected this evening the Second Division, located in Astoria. It was a regular quarterly inspection, and at its close Lieutenant Commander Davis addressed the division, complimenting the officers and men of the proficiency of their drill and upon their general appearance.

BOY CARRIED CONCEALED WEAPON.

Arrested and Fined for the Offense—Railroad Land Listed.

OREGON CITY, June 27.—Ed Peterson, boy, aged about 12 years, residing at Eagle Creek, was fined \$10 in the Justice Court this afternoon for carrying concealed weapons. He had been shooting promiscuously on the highways, to the imminent danger of people passing in the vicinity, and a complaint was entered by W. H. Young, a liverman here, whose children are visiting relatives in that neighborhood.

In the Circuit Court today, Eva Lyons, formerly of Portland, filed a suit for a divorce from Ed Lyons, on the ground of neglect and non-support.

Today Sheriff Cooke completed the assessment on 25,825 acres of land contracted to be sold by the Oregon & California Railroad Company to private individuals, which has heretofore been in dispute as to title between the railroad company and the Government, and did not come under the jurisdiction of the Assessor. The assessment was also completed on 8,000 acres of land belonging to the Oregon & California Railroad Company in the Northern Pacific overlap. The total tax on the former for 1900 is \$1013.18, and on the latter \$123.17. After the decision was made last Winter by the United States Supreme Court that the Oregon & California Railroad Company was entitled to

the lands in question, the company paid out the back taxes on both the contract and other lands that accrued during the litigation. Now it is understood that the settlers will pay the taxes on the contract lands.

The trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church have submitted their annual report to the fourth quarterly conference, showing that the value of the church property is \$15,000. The report shows that \$258.65 was paid out during the year. This money was raised principally by selling off a portion of the church property. There is still a balance on hand of \$606.67. The trustees reported to the conference a unanimous request to resign Rev. H. A. Atkins as pastor for another year.

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thirds of a crop. In one-third of the area the grain appears to be fully up to the average, including both Fall and Spring-sown. In other sections the growers assert that there will not be over a half yield, while in some localities the Fall grain is dying out and the stalks are turning yellow and becoming rusty and a part of the heads are not filled. Some farmers think an undiscovered insect is working on the grain thus affected, and stalks brought to town have the appearance of having the nutrient drawn out of a part of the stalks. There has been but little complaint of the ravages of the aphid, or of the Hessian fly. Many farmers are prone to overestimate the damage to a growing crop, becoming easily discouraged at anything that has the appearance of lessening the average yield. The conditions, however, are favorable for a large yield of other staples.

HAYING IN LAKE COUNTY.

Crop is Earlier Than Usual—A Good Yield.

LAKEVIEW, Or., June 25.—Haying in Lake County is now in full blast. The crop is 10 to 25 days earlier than usual, and will be much better in some sections than in former years, thus insuring the stockmen plenty of winter feed. It has been 10 years since the stockmen of Lake County have suffered from a bad winter, which, when it comes, kills off one-fourth to one-half of the stock. Since the last hard winter the stock industry has greatly increased, and the importance of putting up large quantities of

How Useless Testimony Makes Expense for Litigants and the State.

SALEM, June 27.—The case of John Muldrick, William Mason and Farquhar Finlayson, respondents, against Walter McGowan, J. C. Cobb, Charles W. Shrier and Charles Brown, appellants, which was recently decided by the Supreme Court, indicates how a considerable portion of the time of the Supreme Court is occupied by the testimony of witnesses in the lower courts. The case was tried before Judge M. D. Clifford, in Grant County, but the testimony was taken before a referee. The decision in the lower court was in favor of the plaintiffs, and the defendants appealed. The decision of the lower court was affirmed.

In taking testimony before a referee, every question proposed and a witness is allowed to be answered. The sufficiency and pertinence of the evidence are left to the future decision of the court. The lawyers, therefore, have control of the volume of the testimony. In this case, the transcript of testimony filled 1900 pages of typewritten legal cap. There are also numerous exhibits of documents, maps, etc. In attending the decision of the lower court, Judge Bean said:

"The evidence is quite voluminous, but a large portion of it is irrelevant and immaterial."

But its being irrelevant and immaterial did not relieve the Supreme Court of the time-consuming task of reviewing it in order to determine that fact. The evidence was presented by the attorneys, and for each time it appeared on the face it was all material to the issues. The expense of bringing up this testimony did not fall upon the state, however, for the appellant had to pay for his transcript before presenting his appeal, and having lost his case, is out his money. The suit was brought to enjoin defendants from trespassing upon the Zero and Piedmont mining claims, in Grant County, and in the Supreme Court today the following orders were made:

State of Oregon, respondent, vs. Alpha Knight, appellant, ordered that appellants' time to serve their brief be extended to August 1, 1900.

Mary Elliott et al., respondents, vs. C. R. Bloyd et al., appellants, ordered that respondents have until August 1, 1900, to serve and file their brief herein.

Marion Teachers' Institute.

The Marion County Teachers' Institute convened in annual session at the East Salem school building this morning with about 120 teachers present.

At the morning session Miss S. J. Evans, of Chicago, discussed geography teaching, giving special attention to blackboard illustrations and picture aids. She uses pictures clipped from magazines, newspapers, etc., to illustrate the vegetation of the different countries, the manner in which the people live, etc. Professor W. C. Hawley lectured on the United States Constitution.

This afternoon Professor D. A. Groat, of Portland, led a class in reading. Superintendent of Public Instruction J. H. Ackerman gave an explanation of the new school register recently prepared by him. Miss R. J. Evans lectured on "Literature and History in the Primary Grades."

Well-Informed Insane Man.

Thomas Ward was today committed to the Asylum by the Marion County Court. Ward is about 25 years old, and until recently was employed as a cook by George Keane, of Grant's Pass. He was born in Belfast, Ireland, and has traveled in all parts of the world. He is possessed of a vast fund of information upon all manner of subjects, and is a very fluent talker. While confined in the City Jail, he developed an address upon the presidents of the United States, reviewing the lives and characters of each in the order of their service, and discussing their relation to National issues. His derangement is probably due to drink.

The Salem Census.

Census Supervisor C. B. Winn, of Albany, was in the city today, conferring

BEACH GOLD NEAR HOME

AT OLD MOUTH OF NOOKSACK RIVER IN WASHINGTON.

Sand Said to Yield 40 Cents to the Pan—Beach Staked for Distance of Five Miles.

NEW WHATCOMB, Wash., June 27.—The discovery of gold at Sandy Point, which makes out into the Gulf of Georgia from the mouth of the Nooksack River, in this county, is creating some excitement. People are flocking there from the surrounding country, and the beach has been staked out for five miles. Claims are all staked out in high, and low water marks. The sand, it is claimed, yields an average of 40 cents to the pan. Sandy Point, the site of the discovery, is the old mouth of the Nooksack River, whose source is in the Mount Baker mining district.

Oregon Mining Stock Exchange.

Following are the sales:

FOUNT'S DREDGE CO.

1 share at \$100.00

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