

Corvallis Gazette.

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FRANK CONOVER.

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THOSE SIDEWALKS.

It will be noticed in the council proceedings, published in another column, that a claim for damages has been brought against the city by Mrs. Arlena E. Lewis for injuries received by falling through a defective sidewalk. If the claimant succeeds in sustaining her claim, which no doubt she will, or at least a portion of it, this single accident will have cost the city, or rather the taxpayers, nearly as much if not more than the entire sum expended by the city for repairing the sidewalks during the past year. That there are many dangerous walks in Corvallis is a fact that can easily be demonstrated by taking a short stroll in any part of the city. The GAZETTE has on several occasions called attention to this matter, and there seems to be no reasonable excuse for such condition of affairs. It is unjust that the taxpayers should be compelled to go down in their pockets and pay such claims all on account of mere carelessness and neglect on the part of officers who have sworn to perform the duties required of them by the laws governing our city, but who never neglect to draw their salary as soon as it is due. The duties of marshal are clearly stated in the following extract from Section 4, Chapter 5, Title 1, City Laws, governing the Construction and Repairs of Sidewalks:

Whenever any side-walk in the city shall become or be out of repair, it shall be the duty of the City Marshal to immediately notify, in writing, the owner or occupant of the lot or lots, land or lands, adjoining any such side-walk, to repair the same within two days, and if the owner or occupant as aforesaid, shall refuse or fail to repair any such side-walk as required by the notice aforesaid, then the Marshal shall proceed to repair the same and charge the expense thereof, together with cost of notice, to the owner of said lot or lots, land or lands, etc.

WHAT astonishing progress has telegraphy made in the past forty-six years the growth of one solitary experimental line from Washington to Baltimore having marvelously expanded to 2,500,000 miles of wire, enough to encircle the world one hundred times. Of this amount the United States has a little more than 30 per cent, and the mileage is increasing more rapidly than in any other country. Outside of the United States and Canada fully 95 per cent is owned by the governments. The house committee to which was referred Wanamaker's postal telegraph scheme has practically determined to drop the consideration of the subject at present.

SHOULD the line of steamships between the United States and the South Pacific Islands be discontinued a heavy loss to the commerce of this country will be sustained. But there is every probability of its being withdrawn. The United States is reaping nearly all the benefits, yet the subsidy to maintain the lines is furnished by other countries. Congress should not allow this great loss to occur for the want of a few dollars for subsidy purposes.

BUSINESS pluck is necessary for the development of the resources of any community. It makes little difference how advantageously any point is situated, if those interested in its growth do not exercise enterprise and energy the town will die and allow other cities to reap the advantages which it naturally possesses.

MANY of the eastern papers are publishing articles on how to avoid sunstrokes. Such articles are of great interest to the people of the East, but not to those who have the good fortune to be at home on the Pacific coast.

THE FARMER'S FRIEND.

It is decidedly a mistake for the farmers to be led into the idea that the town people are their enemies, or that they are reaping exorbitant profits from their business. A general thing the average merchant finds that it takes pretty shrewd scheming and strict economy to meet his bills and necessary expense of conducting the business, and yet hundreds of farmers have been helped over tight places by these same men whom they—or at least a portion of them,—now class as their enemies. In times of drouth and failure of crops they have paid enormous rates of interest and strained every nerve, and taxed their brains to the fullest capacity, in order to ease many of our people over these discouraging obstacles along the pathway of life. Look back over the past just for one moment. Can you not call to mind a period in the history of your life when the merchant—yes the heartless merchant whom you are opposing—kindly kept the hungry wolf from your door and clothed the wife and babies from the bleak, cold winds of winter, and waited on you months for the money? Did you ever stop to consider that among those whom you class as your enemies is this same generous merchant who extended to you a helping hand in these times of need? But wait! How many merchants whom you have traded with during the past twenty years have grown wealthy? Statistics teach us that ninety per cent. of those who engage in business in the west meet with failures. This being true now how many of them are on an average, robbing you or making money by dishonorable methods? This article is not intended for rattle-headed harem-skarems, but we appeal to the common sense and good judgment of our practical farmers, whether in the alliance or out of it. Better let ten guilty men escape than unjustly strike one who is not only innocent of having anything to do with the present state of depression, but who has possibly saved your property from the auction block in times that have passed and gone.—Ex.

POULTRY raising ought to be profitable business in Oregon if it will pay to ship poultry all the way from Nebraska to Puget Sound. A Portland paper of last Saturday reports a carload of 4000 fowls—chickens, turkeys, pigeons, ducks and geese—passing through that city, en route from Ord, Nebraska with 4000 fowls, of which 125 died on the route from excessive heat. He said, his company had sent eighteen cars of poultry to the west already this year, and the profits from the venture have been so satisfactory that probably more firms will embark in similar enterprises.

THAT was an interesting meet of the horticulturists at Corvallis. The way to get rid of the pests of the orchardists is to get together and compare bug notes and organize the war of extermination on a basis that will exterminate. If every man in Oregon who owns an orchard would join in the warfare the state would soon be as free from fruit pests as it was a few years ago, before they were imported from the east.—Statesman.

It is remarked as a curious fact that a certificate representing one of our silver dollars, if carried into Mexico, can be sold at a premium of more than twenty per cent. over the Mexican silver dollar, which contains more silver than our own.

OLD Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California, is passing his declining days in poverty. He is now 90 years old, and has lost his property and has not money enough to pay his house rent.

Thirty-five hundred millions of dollars in life insurance are carried in the United States.

SELF MADE CITIES.

The Philadelphia Press recently, in speaking of Chicago and the World's fair, said: "Chicago today stands as a magnificent type of the great American city that leans not on the past for reputation."

That was very neatly and truly put. But Chicago is not the only city in this northwestern country to which this compliment can very appropriately be applied. San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane Falls, Denver, and other western cities of characteristic energy and enterprise stand on their own foundations, and do not lean on the past for prestige, influence or attractiveness. What they are today they have made themselves, and they have nothing for which to thank the old fellows who died a century or more ago.

Chicago is a representative western city and will prove a great attraction to foreigners who can see a city of over a million people built almost from the ground up within the memory of many of its inhabitants. But they will not find all the push and energy centered in Chicago. A visit to the Pacific coast cities will show this spirit in a more marked degree than even in Chicago. They will see what is more attractive than graves of revolutionary patriots, historic temples or shrines sacred to the wisdom or patriotism of other countries—the active, pushing, ambitious spirit that rears its own monuments in the magnificence of its own achievements.—Telegram.

CULBERSON, of Texas, is denominated the silent man of congress. He never says a word on the floor of the house, and but for the roll calls there would be no record of his presence.



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