

AN UNSAFE SAFE.

CRACKSMEN OPEN THE STRONG BOX AT FISCHER'S MILL.

Fischer's flouring mill, just south of Mary's river, was the scene of a professional safe-cracking last Sunday night. The mill usually runs from Monday morning at 5 to Sunday morning at 5, and the robbers, whoever they may be, were evidently pretty well acquainted with the surroundings and number of working hours. The safe, a solid-looking one of about 1200 pounds, has the words "Mosler Bahman & Co." conspicuously displayed in fancy letters on its massive-looking doors, and seems all right yet, with the exception of a neat round hole about half an inch in diameter drilled about midway between the combination knob and that which throws the bolts back on opening the "strong box." After drilling this hole through the 3/4 inch plate on the door, some crooked instrument was inserted, which caught the slots in the combination and thus threw back the bolts and opened the safe about as easy as you would an old leather trunk. The cracksmen pried the door off a rather flimsy-looking vault and abstracted all there was in it—about \$500 worth of county scrip, with several mortgages and deeds. The drawer on the right was also pried open, but the one on the left, which held \$500 in gold and silver, was left unmolested and found untouched by the surprised owner next morning.

Several days ago, two dapper-looking young fellows, well dressed, visited the mill, and after standing around a while, asked for work sewing sacks. No sack-sewers were needed at the time, and they went away, but not until they had become posted as to the "lay" of things around the mill generally. The office doors were never locked, and so the thieves had no trouble about getting into the room in which the safe had stood. The burglars will hardly profit by the haul they made, as the county warrants can be identified and offering them for sale will only lead to the detection of the thieves, one of whom is supposed to have been "sent up" from Corvallis once before for the robbery of Mr. Hodes' gun store.

There are now two safes in Corvallis which are not considered "burglar proof." The other is the somewhat old-fashioned affair at T. E. Cauthorn's store which was robbed some ten years ago by the very simple process of a steel punch and a hammer, by which the thieves made a hole large enough to put their hands in and take the money, some \$200, out of the inner till. In this instance the operators were never discovered, and Mr. Cauthorn's safe to this day is only the repository of books and papers, the tell-tale tunnel through its side having been patched over by one of our local blacksmiths. These safes may be very useful in case of a fire, but time is proving that "burglar proof" safes of the ordinary pattern are no obstacle at all to obtaining the money stowed away in them when even an ordinary cracksmen comes along with his little drill. It is thought the operators in the affair of Sunday night will be hunted down and brought to justice.

WANTS TO BUILD A BOAT.—C. A. Carey writes to the Statesman from Corvallis that he and another gentleman "would like to go into a small steamboat and run it between Salem and the head of navigation on the Willamette. We have had some experience in steambating on this river," writes Mr. Carey, "having run the 'Topsy' towing logs for the last three years. We thought of about a thirty ton boat of light draught. We can put the boat up if we can get help to buy the machinery. We thought perhaps the cannery company might take hold of it, as it would be a help to them. There would be lots of vegetables raised along the river bottoms if they could be shipped to Salem, where there is a market for them. We would like to get some of the business men of Salem interested in it." This proposition should receive immediate attention from the people of Salem. This is the sort of boat Salem has been needing for a long time. It would be a success, and induce the building of more of them as business demanded it.—Statesman.

George A. Brodie was held up by two masked highwaymen, one day last week, while returning from Portland to his home in Powell's valley. The desperadoes rifled his pockets and took all of his loose change, which consisted of just one nickel.

BRIEF LOCALS.

T. E. Cauthorn is in Salem. Carload of pearl oil (blue label) \$1.40 per can at Kline's.

Egan & Achison are selling monuments at Portland prices.

New black dress goods .25, .50, .75, \$1 and \$1.25 just received at Kline's.

If you want a monument see Egan & Achison, of Albany, before purchasing.

Senator Croson and Representative Starr, of this county, spent Sunday at their homes.

Mr. Ed. Dunn has accepted a position in the dry goods establishment of S. L. Kline.

Linn county has remitted \$14,225.15 to the state treasurer, being the first county to remit.

The Chinese New Year which began last Saturday, is passing off with unusual quietude.

For bargains in monuments, headstones, etc., go to Egan & Achison, Albany, Oregon.

The committee appointed by the legislature to examine public building were in Corvallis Saturday.

Elder J. H. Hughes will deliver two lectures in the Normal School chapel at Monmouth this week.

There will be a grand ball given on Washington's birthday at the Yaquina hotel at Yaquina City on Feb. 23rd.

The real estate market around Corvallis is looking up. Several large deals are reported pending negotiation.

Cameron Hemphill has retired from the management of Job's Theatre, and it will hereafter be conducted by Job Bros.

The firm of Smith & Stettler, butchers, has been dissolved, Mr. Smith retiring. The business will hereafter be conducted by Mr. Stettler.

The Oregon Pacific railroad company is paying off for the month of October. C. C. Hogue went over the line Wednesday to pay the employees.

To-morrow is Valentine's Day and the postoffices all over the country will do a big business. The mails will be utilized to express alike emotions of love and of hatred.

Egan Achison handle the celebrated Portland cement walls for cemetery lots. These walls can be furnished at half the cost of any other and are far superior.

W. S. Williams, who was arrested last week for obtaining money of Mr. Harness, of this city, on several organs belonging to Wiley B. Allen, waived examination in the Portland police court and was held in \$1000 bonds.

J. W. Hanson, of Fairhaven, was in Corvallis this week. He carries on an extensive tailoring establishment at his adopted city and is one of the very few who have left Corvallis recently and found a more encouraging outlook elsewhere.

The Santiam mines are no longer an unknown quantity, says the Albany Herald. The new machinery there is converting the ore into bullion and the district is now a scene of active mining operations which promise satisfactory results.

Jack Dempsey, who recently met with his second defeat in the prize ring, returned to his home in Portland this week and met with a hearty reception. Jack has come to the conclusion that he doesn't like pugilism as a business.

Dr. H. A. Jones, Veterinary Surgeon of 23 years experience, from Nebraska, can be found at Philomath during this month, after which he will locate in Corvallis. Orders left at Thos. Eglin's stable will be promptly attended to.

M. S. Neugass and family started for San Francisco last Saturday to remain an indefinite time. Mose has been troubled with rheumatism for some time, and he is in hopes that some of the California mineral springs will straighten him out.

Considerable counterfeit money is said to be in circulation at this time. The most dangerous is a counterfeit five-dollar gold piece, but it may be seen upon examination that the edges are slightly worn and that it has a greasy feeling. It is dated 1889.

L. Samuels has retired from the West Shore. The Welcome says the stockholders thought \$400 a month more than he was worth. They never will get another ruster like Samuels all the same. With all the talk he has done an immense sight for the Northwest.

STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS.

This department is in the hands of Prof. P. H. Irish, who, after graduating with an A. B. at Amherst, took the degree of Ph. D. in the German University at Goettingen.

The class in physics is divided into two sections, one composed of the young ladies in the Domestic Economy course and the other of students in the Agricultural and Mechanical courses.

The Domestic Economy course is somewhat briefer than the other, as it is only intended to treat simply of those laws of matter which will be of practical use to the young ladies taking that course, while the other is more extended and gives a general idea of the subject of elementary physics. Particular attention is given to those subjects which the student of mechanics or agriculture is liable to meet with in after life. The importance of this subject from an agricultural standpoint is, that a great many problems which the farmer has to deal with can be more understandingly treated, if he has a knowledge of elementary physics, since this treats of the physics of the soil and the laws according to which machinery works.

At present home made apparatus and such of the chemical apparatus that can be employed, is used for illustration.

By another year the department will be better equipped, since \$1000 has been set aside by the Board of Regents for the purchase of physical apparatus.

A special feature in the study of chemistry is the laboratory work. A new and larger laboratory is being fitted up for the use of the class. It is the object of this department to give the student the requisite amount of instruction in the subjects treated in such a manner that he will be able to work up subjects for himself, to give him scientific methods, to make him original in his work and to do away as far as possible with the idea of learning things parrot like. By making the student depend on his own observation all chance of mere repetition is excluded, and at the same time his mind is being so trained that he will be able to take up problems not laid down in books and get facts for himself. The objections to what is sometimes called book learning are in this way intended to be overcome.

The study of General Chemistry and the Metalloids gives an understanding of the composition and relations of elementary substances. The study of Metallurgy includes talks on general methods of reduction of the metals, also work in the laboratory, from which the student is expected to build up a system of quantitative analysis of his own.

A valuable help in this study is afforded by the cabinet of ores containing about 200 specimens. Any specimens of interest are gladly received by the college.

The study of Chemistry of Common Life deals with such subjects as the name implies. The apparatus for students' work is good and sufficient for the work.

A gas machine supplies heat for the laboratory.

The station work consists of experiments on the farm, examination of mineral waters, analysis of soils and grains and other work belonging to this department.

The financial necessity of dispensing with an assistant has to some extent lessened the amount of both college and station work which might have been carried on.

An idea of the character of the Station work may be obtained from the bulletins issued by the station. Bulletin No. 4 gives the analysis of fourteen specimens of wheat, and of clay supposed to be suitable for fire clay and of rock thought to possess properties of cement. It also gives the methods of preparing soil or water to be sent to the station for analysis.

The work in investigation of the sugar beet problem for the state was carried out as far as practicable last year and preparations are being made to continue it this current year. The object being to determine the practicability of raising beets for sugar in Oregon. There is no trouble about raising the beets but the question is whether they will contain enough sugar to warrant their cultivation for that purpose. This will be further explained and the results given in the bulletins of the station.

Dr. Koch's lymph is to be tried in Portland's two hospitals.

OREGON AND DAKOTA.

The following is gleaned from a letter written from Salem to a North Dakota paper:

"From what I can learn, from the few months I have resided in Salem, the Willamette valley knows fewer sudden changes from heat to cold, or vice versa, than any other locality in the same latitude. For health and general usefulness it cannot be beaten. One can see roses and numerous flowers in bloom here while it is cold enough to freeze a wooden Indian in Dakota.

While Oregon, as a whole, possesses qualities and attractions superior to any other western state, the Willamette valley stands out as the "mirage of Eden" of the state, and has no superior in productiveness on the Pacific coast. Salem is nicely situated on the east bank of the Willamette river. Steamers plow the blue waters of the river and carry on a transportation business which is envied by the three railroads running parallel with and on each side of the river. Its woolen mills, foundries, saw mills, planing mills, factories and other industries throw a garb of prosperity around the capital city of Oregon which is envied by not a few.

One can clean up as much money here from ten acres of land as he can back east from two hundred acres, and escape a large amount of worry and hard work. Here one can take an all-the-year-round gut on a ten acre lot of growing orchard, and raise vegetables enough to make a living on while his orchard is growing to maturity. The coming institutions pay the cash for all cannable vegetables and small fruits and all varieties of pickles. This entirely does away with the old time fact that a man could not afford to plant an orchard and wait ten years for returns. The cultivation of small fruit or vegetables is also a benefit to the growing trees.

To a man from away back in desert-like Dakota, it looks as though there must be a screw loose somewhere, or there would not be a clamor for the immigrant. The "boose screw" he sees in the fact that the old Oregonians are nearly all southerners and have the happy faculty of taking things easy. Still some of these people are rich, while the rest have made an easy living. There seems to be a disposition among them to discourage eastern people from locating here, as the latter invariably succeed. Some of them have come here and purchased the old original orchards, cleaned the moss off and scrubbed them in genuine "yankee" fashion and made them valuable, wealth-producing property, some of the orchards bearing tons of excellent fruit now.

Carpenters began yesterday to remodel Wilkins & Bond's store for the reception of the firm's large stock of clothing, boots and shoes, which is now on the way here.

News was received in this city to the effect that Walter Scott, formerly of Corvallis, indulged in some pistol practice at Moscow on the 6th, in which a dentist named J. H. McCallie, was the target. The dentist was shot twice but the wounds are not serious. The grand jury, which was in session at the time, exonerated Scott.

Services as usual at the Presbyterian church next Sabbath morning at 11 o'clock evening. Dr. Thompson gives his third lecture entitled "How the Church ought to Deal with the Young," in the evening. Morning topic, "The Hymn of the Victors." Sunday school at 10 a. m. Song service at 7 p. m. A welcome to all.

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Dr. Aborn can be consulted from now until July 5th, when he leaves for Europe.

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