The prevailing use of electricity has brought about a large increase in fires, owing to crossed wires. Ten years ago there were only 66 such fires, and last year there were 958.

Improved Train Equipment.

The O. R. & N. and Oregon Short Line have added a buffet, smoking and library car to their Portland-Chicago through train, and a dining car service has been inaugurated. The train is equipped with the latest chair cars, day coaches and luxurious first-class and ordinary sleepers. Direct connection made at Granger with Union Pacific, and at Ogden with Rio Grande line, from all points in Oregon, Washington and Idaho to all Eastern cities. For information, rates, etc., call on any O. R. & N. agent, or address W. H. Hurlburt, General Passenger Agent, Portland.

A New Feature in Western Traveling.

The Pullman Company now operates two grades of sleeping cars via the Rio Grande Western Railway. The ordinary sleepers are entirely new, and the berths, both upper and lower, are fitted up complete with mattresses, blankets, sheets, pillows, curtains, etc., with stoves arranged for making tea, coffee, etc., requiring nothing to be furnished by passengers. Uniformed Pullman porters are in charge of the cars, who are requred to keep them in good order and attend to the wants and comforts of passengers. The cars are very handsome and commodious, and while not so elegant, are just as comfortable as standard or palace sleepers. Both first and second-class passengers are permitted to occupy these cars on payment of the Pullman berth rates, which are less than half of the rates charged in the regular Pullman palace sleeping cars.

The ordinary sleepers are carried daily on trains via Rio Grande Western Railway between Denver and San Francisco and Portland. On five days in each week the sleepers are run through between Los Angeles and San Francisco, or Portland and Denver, Omaha, Chicago and Boston.

For additional details write for copy of folder to J. D. Mansfield, 253 Washington street, Portland, or George W. Heintz, acting general passenger agent, Salt Lake City.

Climate, Scenery and Nature's Sanitarium.

Scenery, altitude, sunshine and air, constitute the factors which are rapidly making Colorado the health and pleasure grounds of the world.

Here the sun shines 357 days of the average year, and it blends with the crisp, electric mountain air to produce a climate matchless in the known world. No pen can portray, no brush can picture the majestic grandeur of the scenery along the line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in Colorado. Parties going East should travel via this line which is known all over the world as the Scenic Line of the world. For any information regarding rates, time tables, etc., call on or address R. C. Nichol, general agent, 251 Washington street, Portland, Or., or any agent of the O. R. & N. Co., or Southern Pacific Company.

A red-hot poker was used by Harry Hale at Bellefontaine, Ohio, to open a whisky barrel. He pressed the poker into the bung, and the barrel exploded into a thousand pieces, causing fatal injuries to Mr. Hale.

Judge Falconbridge, of the high court of Canada, has ruled that it is not compulsory for persons to give evidence that may incriminate themselves in liquor cases.

Buffalo bridge and structural iron workers want the eight-hour day and $2.50.

ALONG THE COAST.

Items of General Interest Gleaned From the Thriving Pacific States.

Conditions in all lines of industry in the Pacific Northwest this fall are in exceptionally fine shape and indications are that next year will see an activity not hitherto found here. Even now we have indications from different sources that there are preparations being made for doing a large amount of deferred work along agricultural lines, railroad building, harbor improvement, mining, etc., besides much work that must be done to keep pace with growing demands in these sections, and as a result of all this it is safe to predict that there can be no idle men through the winter, nor during next summer. In some sections the demand for workmen is so great that those needing them have difficulty in securing them, notwithstanding that the wages offered are higher than ordinary. Nearly all men who are able and willing to work can secure employment, and there is no excuse for idle men from now on. Those who may have been affected by the closing down of nearly all the shingle mills recently can secure temporary work elsewhere during the time their mills are closed, if they so desire, and men coming from the East looking for work should have no difficulty in securing plenty of work at good wages. Of course, it is not expected that there will be so great a demand for skilled labor as for the ordinary, on account of the skilled artisans and regular employes of the factory and on the farm holding their positions right along, but that class of workmen who generally do not secure work for all the year and are anxious to keep busy during the winter months may find work in abundance at good wages. —Northwest Industries.

Lieutenant James Munro.

Lieutenant James N. Munro Fourth United States cavalry, who made the successful bluff, while in command of 50 men of his troop, which resulted in the capture of Bayombong, with 800 armed insurgents, under General Conon, is well-known in Walla Walla, where he was stationed in 1897. When the war with Spain began he was left in command of the fort at that place, being the only officer at the garrison for several months. He chafed under his enforced absence from the field of battle, and repeatedly said that if given a chance he would do something to make his name known. One of his expressions was, "If I get a chance I'll show them a trick with a hole in it." He was delighted when the order came last spring for him to take his troop to the Philippines. That he carried out his promise "to show them a trick with a hole in it" is made very evident by his capture of 16 armed insurgents for every man in his command. Lieutenant Munro is a graduate of West Point, is a small man of athletic build, of brusque manner, and appears when on horseback a typical cavalryman.

Rails For Alaska.

Heavy shipments of railroad iron have been recently made to Seattle for the Alaska road, and within the past few weeks contracts have been made by the White Pass & Yukon for the early delivery of 4,000 tons of rails, which will be shipped from Seattle to Skagway and Lake Bennett. This is in addition to 7,500 tons already purchased and which are now going forward. These rails will be used in the extension of the White Pass line from Lake Bennett to Closeleigh, a point on Fifty-mile river, four miles below the White Horse rapids.

For a Better Service.

The Northern Pacific will undoubtedly institute a double train service between St. Paul and the coast next April. The announcement has been made before that the road would attempt a double train service, but now the rumors have given way to an authoritative statement to that effect. Owing to the heavy traffic it is believed by Northern Pacific officials that a double train service is the only solution to the present difficulties in maintaining anything like schedule time.

Northwest Notes.

The seventh annual meeting of the Washington State Dairymen's Association will be held at North Yakima on December 28-30. Professor C. F. Curtis, of the Iowa agricultural college, will deliver addresses each day, and other prominent dairy enthusiasts will also take part.

The Arcata delivered at Marshfield, last week, 1,000,000 salmon eggs on ice for the Rogue river hatchery. These eggs traveled nearly 1,000 miles before they reached the hatchery, although the place where they were taken was only 40 miles from the mouth of the Rogue river. They went by way of San Francisco, the wagon road being too rough to transport them.

Most of the employes of the suspended Washington shingle mills are now at work repairing the buildings and machinery of the mills. It was feared that the general closing down of the shingle mills in this state would throw many laborers out of work, but it has in fact brought little hardship upon them.

J. W. Kunzelman, L. E. Torinus and David Carmichael, of Stillwater, Minn., are reported as having acquired extensive tracts of timber land in Skagit county. W. S. Jamison, of Port Gamble, is said to have sold 1,200 acres of timber land for $20,000, supposedly to the Stillwater syndicate, says the Lumber Trade Journal.

Pendleton's expenditures for 1899 will be more than $4,000 less than for 1898, even including the cost of 1,500 cords of wood purchased this year that will be carried over.

Aberdeen logging camps will run all winter.

A Tacoma firm has an order for 5,000 cedar ties to go to Honolulu.

Over 3,000 logs and piles came out of North Coos river on the raise caused by the recent storm.

The Southern Oregon normal school, at Ashland, has enrolled 150 regular students to date, besides 60 children in the training school.

Since Memphis completed its system of sewerage the death roll has decreased 30 per cent in the districts which possess proper drainage.

WEEKLY TRADE REVIEW.

Unfavorable Weather for Distribution of Seasonable Goods.

Bradstreet's weekly review of trade says: The price situation generally is apparently one of notable strength. Farm products, it is true, notably wheat and corn, have been weak and lower on unsatisfactory foreign demand, and a bearish influenre exercised by increasing supplies of former grain. Other cereals are stronger, however. Provisions have been lower, largely on increased receipts of hogs, but lard has been steady on good export demand. Woolen goods have been strong also, despite unfavorable weather. Raw wool has again advanced on heavy trading, and what is additionally interesting, prices at the latest foreign wool sales appear to have gained to a parity with recent advances here.

Crop damage reports from Brazil have been a moving feature in coffee, which started from a very low price level and, with large stocks carried over from previous years. The price of this staple advanced nearly 1 cent in November. A marked tendency toward higher prices for hardware is reported at a number of markets. Holiday business in this line has opened well, and the prospect for spring trade is regarded as encouraging.

Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week aggregate 3,699,490 bushels, against 3,683,677 bushels last week.

Business failures in the United States, as usual at this period are larger, numbering 171 for the week as compared with 202 last week, 212 in this week a year ago, 250 in 1897, 359 in 1896, and 315 in 1895. Business failures in the Dominion of Canada for the week number 25 against 38 last week, 25 in this week a year ago, 37 in 1897, 47 in 1896, and 39 in 1985.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, $1.00@1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, $16@20.
Beets, per sack, 75@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 75@90c per 100 pounds.
Peaches, 65@80c.
Apples, $1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, $1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Watermelons, $1.50.
Nutmegs, 50@75c.
Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 22c per pound.
Eggs—Firm, 33@35c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—9@10c; dressed, 11@13c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, $12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, $17.00@18.00
Corn—Whole, $23.00; cracked, $23; feed meal, $23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, $21; whole, $22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, $3.35; blended straights, $3.10; California, $3.25; buckwheat flour, $6.00; graham, per barrel, $3.80; whole wheat flour, $3.10; rye flour, $3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, $16.00; shorts, per ton, $17.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, $20.50 per ton; middlings, per ton, $22; oil cake meal, per ton, $35.00.

Portland Market.

Wheat — Walla Walla, 50@51c; Valley, 51c; Bluestem, 52c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, $3.00; graham, $2.50; supertine, $2.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 35c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, $16@16.50; brewing, $18.00@19.00 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, $17 per ton; middlings, $22; shorts, $18; chop, $16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, $9@11; clover, $7@8; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 37½@40c; store, 25@35c.
Eggs—18½@21c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.00@3.50 per dozen; hens, $4.50; springs, $2.00@3.50; geese, $7.00@8.50 for old; $4.50@6.50 for young; ducks, $4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 14@15c per pound.
Potatoes—50@60c per sack; sweets, 2@2¼c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, $1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, $1; beans, 5@6c per pound; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 3@4c per pound; tomatoes, 75c per box; green corn, 12½@15c per dozen.
Hops—7@10c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, $5.00; light and feeders, $4.50; dressed, $5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, $3.50@4.00; cows, $3@3.50; dressed beef, 6½@7¼c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 8@8½c per pound.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Nevada, 12@15c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12@16c; Valley, 18@20c; Northern, 10@12c.
Hops—1899 crop, 11@12c per pound.
Onions—Yellow, 75@85c per sack.
Butter—Fancy creamery 24@25c; do seconds, 22@24c; fancy dairy, 21@22c; do seconds, 19@20c per pound.
Eggs—Store, 26@34c; fancy ranch, 41c.
Millstuffs — Middlings, $17.00@20.00; bran, $14@15.00.
Hay—Wheat $7.00@10; wheat and oat $7.50@9.50; best barley $6.00@7.50; alfalfa, $5.00@7.50 per ton; straw, 35@45c per bale.
Potatoes—Early Rose, 40@50c; Oregon Burbanks, 60c@1.00; river Burbanks, 45@65c; Salinas Burbanks, $1.00@1.25 per sack.
Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, $2.75@3.25; Mexican limes, $4.00@5.00; California lemons 75c@$1.50; do choice $1.75@2.00 per box.
Tropical Fruits—Bananas, $1.50@2.50 per bunch; pineapples, nominal; Persian dates, 6@6½c per pound.

GOVERNOR BRADY'S REPORT.

Devotes a Considerable Portion to Mines of Alaska.

Governor Brady, of Alaska, in his annual report, pleads for stockood, government establishment and the operation of cable and telegraph lines and the persistent branding of female seals and the cessation of killing them for at least 10 years. An appropriation of $110,000 is asked for a penitentiary and suitable public buildings at Sitka. The governor says that to preserve the seals the United States should own a property right in the seals and brand the letters "U. S." four inches long on every female seals—thus spoiling them for fur seals.

The governor's report is an important document, making a pamphlet of 57 pages. It is a complete report upon the industries and prospects of the immense northern empire. Naturally he devotes a considerable portion of his report to the mining situation. He devotes particular attention to gold quart mining, of which he says:

Quartz Mining in Alaska.

"The year's progress in this industry has been most gratifying. The managers of the Treadwell plant felt that life is too short for the treatment of that immense mass of ore with a 240-stamp mill, which had been doing duty so long and well. Accordingly they have constructed other mills and needful accessories thereto, and now have in operation a total of 880 stamps.

"Back of Juneau, in Silver Bow basin, quartz mining is going on vigorously. The 30 stamps of the Juneau-Alaska mill have been steadily at work during the season.

"Ketchikan, on Tongas narrows, is now the center of a district in the extreme southeastern portion of Alaska, wherein is a keen interest in quatrz mining. The sea level claims are now ready for operation and a milling plant will soon be erected.

"The Appollo Consolidated on Unga island, one of the Shumagin group, has been kept steadily at work throughout the year and has been a pretty steady producer, with a 40-stamp mill, at the rate of about $30,000 per month.

"All the district north of Juneau, along the mainland, is rich in quartz ledges and in the neighborhood of Berner's bay there are several mills at work.

The Fisheries.

The governor refers to the fisheries at length and after describing the extensive salmon canneries says:

"The cod will always be our standby.

"We probably have the grandest banks in the world. It is a safe calculation that we have not less than 125,000 square miles of cod fishing in connection within the Alaska coast. Here is an immense wealth simply waiting for development."

Index and Adjacent Camps.

The Summit mine, seven miles from Index, has just completed a seven-mile horse tram and 1,400-foot wire tram, and are now making regular shipments. They have about 150 feet for stoping ground above the present tunnel. Stope shows about 16 feet of ore. They are also sinking a winze on ore body, in which they are getting some high grade bornite ore. The Golden Tunnel Company, whose property is near Baring, are just completing their mill, which is a centrifugal machine called the Montgomery pulverizer. It is supposed to handle 30 tons of ore per day. In addition to this they are putting in Hungarian riffles and Willfey concentrator. The Vulcan Iron Works of Seattle have the contract and are putting in a 1,700-foot wire tramway from the mine to the mill. The Golden Tunnel property is something entirely different from anything else in the country. It has never had any development work done on it to speak of and still they have several thousand tons of ore in sight, most of which lies loose in a large cave, the main chamber of which is 75 feet high and 25 feet wide, extending something like 75 feet into the mounatin. The ore looks like a pile of white sand or cement finely pulverized. It is said this ore has more metals in it than anything in the country, containing gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron, aluminum, tellurium and a number of others. At Skykomish the Cleopatra people are putting in a wire tramway and are preparing to ship some of their high-grade ore. In their lower tunnel, at a depth of 500 feet, they are taking out a 16-inch streak of gray copper and antimonial silver ore, which runs very high. A crew of 30 men is at work on the Mona, a property on Miller river, about four miles from Skykomish.

Closset & Dever's Costly Fire.

Monday night, December 4, Closset & Devers, the oldest and largest coffee and spice house in the Northwest, were completely burned out at Portland. The loss was about $55,000 and insurance $44,500. They have already a new gas roaster in operation, as they had an extra machine in reserve. Roast coffee orders can be filled now. For other goods they will be in shape in about a week. Their loss was heavy, but they have energy and determination and have been much touched by the numerous offers of sympathy and encouragement from all their friends in every quarter.

Chicago Policemen's Benevolent Association realized $34,000 by the recent annual benefit at the Auditorium.

Trans-Pacific Routes.

The North Pacific pilot chart for December has appeared, and among other interesting features it has for the first time the sailing routes between the Columbia river and the Orient, and the route from the Columbia river down to the trades. The credit for placing Portland, Astoria and the Columbia river "on the map" is largely due to the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

Defective flues were responsible for over 11 per cent of the fires last year.

The Mascot camp, 37 miles from Palouse City, is prospering. The Mother Lode mine there is said to have richer ore than the Republic. This mine is owned by Taylor Bros., of Farmington. The ledge is said to be very extensive.

The following process is said to restore to a waterproof the original softness: Dissolve a teaspoon of the best gray lime in half a pailful of water; wipe the cloak well with a soft cloth, wrung loosely out of this mixture; hang to dry and repeat the operation in two hours.

One of the Michigan food inspectors who has been making a tour of the state, says that Michigan's pure food law is working admirably in diminishing adulteration. He says that, of late years, great quantities of imitation fruit jellies have been sold; these are made of glucose and corn jelly, colored to resemble the desired fruit. In one town the inspector stopped the sale of imitation strawberry jam, which was made of corn jelly and glucose, flavored with strawberry extract, and further improved by the addition of hayseed.

New Pass in Rocky Mountains.

An ordinance has been passed in West Palm Beach, Fla., forbidding females to enter saloons.

Last year 6,891 incendiary fires occurred.

Lightning caused 3,479 conflagrations in 1898.

Natural gas was the cause of 94 fires last year.

American shoe manufacturers can undersell the local producer in South Africa.

It has been discovered that what may be called the first daily newspaper was a manuscript letter written by salaried correspondents and forwarded by them every 24 hours from London to the provinces. That was in the days of the early Stuarts. During the commonwealth these London letters were printed in type and circulated in large numbers. Even so long ago as 1680 the law of libel was such as to be characterized by Judge Scroggs as making any newspaper publication illegal and tending to provoke a breach of the peace.

Brooklyn stair builders have the Saturday half holiday and a wage scale of $3.25 a day, including Saturdays, on which the same wage is paid as on the longer working days.

Lawrence county, in the Black Hills, claims the honor of producing a greater amount of gold ore in a day than any other country in the United States—4,650 tons, valued at $40,000.

Day county, S. D., has produced two crops of oats this season.

The Philosophy of Dead Gameness.

"Now," said the man who had yearned for riches, "I will go forth today and risk once more. Success has attended all my ventures. I have $9,990,000. If all goes well today I will be ten times a millionaire. Then I will risk no more. Then I will be content and some one else may step into the place that I leave vacant." So he risked again and won the $10,000 that he thought he needed in his business; but the man who lost the money was not dead game. If he had been dead game he would have said nothing and hoped for better luck next time. Therefore, lacking the qualities that make for gameness, he jumped upon the man who had won and thumped him so hard that he died on the way to the hospital. There is in the heart of every man who succeeds here below a soft spot for the dead game loser.—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Story With a Moral.

An old sailor once appeared to give evidence in a case of assault, when he was asked the following questions:

The Judge—"Where was plaintiff standing when defendant struck him?"

Witness—"Who are they?"

The Judge—"Don't you know the difference between plaintiff and defendant?"

Witness—"No."

The Judge—"Well, you are a nice chap to come here and give evidence! And you don't know the plaintiff from the defendant? Where was he when the man struck him?"

Witness—"Abaft the binnacle!"

The Judge—"Abaft the binnacle! Where is that?"

Witness—"You are a fine chap to sit as a judge! And you don't know where 'abaft the binnacle' is?"

Its Origin.

"Hoot!" cried the owl ever and anon.

The fowls of the air and the beasts of the field stirred uneasily in their sleep and muttered maledictions.

"Why are they so angry?" asked the owlet at last.

"They are envious, my child," replied the owl, "of my Scotch dialect. Hoot, hoot!"—Detroit Journal.

The average loss by fire in the United States has been reduced in 10 years from $6,922 to $1,860. The insurance loss in the same period was reduced from $3,993 to $1,056.

Five fires last year were caused by the sun's rays passing through window glass.