

General News.

Kansas needs 5000 harvest hands to save the wheat crop.

Cottage Grove is reported as improving rapidly in the way of new side-walks being laid and numbers of handsome new residences under construction.

Machinery for the Benton County Prune Packing Co., has arrived at Corvallis, and will be put in operation at once. The plant is a large one complete in every detail.

Wool is down to 16 cents in Corvallis, an English buyer having closed a deal there for 90,000 pounds at that price. The clip has been averaging 17 to 17½ per pound.

A ship canal to cost \$50,000,000 is to be built to give Glasgow a direct outlet to the North sea. Oregon only asks \$8,000,000 to open a river that will benefit a territory 20 times the size of Scotland.

The largest tree in Oregon was felled recently to be sent as a curiosity to the World's Fair. It is the Aberdeen spruce and stood nearly 300 feet high, 40 feet around and 118 feet from the ground to the first limb. Its age is calculated at 440 years, being a good sized tree when Columbus discovered the land that was afterward called America.

The Eugene Guard says the city council should lose no time in passing an ordinance regulating the storage of explosives with in the city limits. The statement is made that eight hundred pounds of dynamite were stored in the business part of Eugene over Sunday. While an explosion is not probable it is possible. An ounce of prevention is worth a good many pounds of cure.

There is considerable discussion among the lawyers not only of Albany but generally of Oregon, as to the reasons for the small amount of litigation, says the Albany Herald. Are people getting better, or do they do less business? Some attribute the small amount of litigation to the general spirit of arbitration which prevails in this age. People settle their disputes out of the courts. The work of the busy lawyer is not in the court room but in his office. And it is in the office work that he makes his money.

There is more activity than ever before in the logging camps in King's Valley says the Corvallis Times. L. G. Price has eight to ten men at work in a camp that he is operating individually as a private enterprise. He has a contract with Spaulding Brothers to put 600,000 feet of logs into the Luckiamute. F. Simpson works 25 men in the same vicinity and his contract is for four million feet. Art C. Miller works 30 men on a contract that is understood to be a large one. Spaulding Brothers themselves operate a camp at which 50 to 60 men are employed. The output goes to sawmills along the lower Willamette and to the pulp mills at Oregon City.

The great arid plains of Nevada, which lie contiguous to the Truckee River, will in all probability soon be turned into fertile fields and blooming orchards lands. That is, as soon as the Department of the Interior shall decide when and to whom the contract for the construction of the canals to be used for irrigating these lands shall be awarded. The proposed scheme is to tap the Truckee River at a point called Clark's Station, and from there by a circuitous route build a canal 15 miles in length, the objective point being Wadsworth. This canal will be built through a territory of sandy plains, which now can barely sustain a slim growth of wiry sagebrush. The building of the canal practically means the reclaiming of something like 250,000 acres of at present useless lands. It is proposed to divert the entire waters of the Truckee River from there natural channel and use them solely for this irrigation scheme.

Last week we mentioned that Millionaire Best was poisoned at San Rafael, Calif., and that his remains were ordered to be exhumed for a coroners jury to pass on the case. The body had been shipped to New York for burial, and on Saturday the grave was opened and upon examination of the body it was found that the abdominal cavity of the body was filled with sawdust and that all the internal organs that would show evidence of irritant poison had been carefully removed. Those that were left in the body has been severed as with a sharp knife from the supporting membranes and were found lying loose. Alfred Best, son of the murdered man, declared that he would immediately wire Prosecuting Attorney Boyd, at San Rafael, Calif., to swear out a warrant on a new charge for the arrest of Dr. John D. Wood and wife, at whose home in San Rafael, Calif. Best was a visitor at the time of his sudden death.

The Salem flax fiber mills have been compelled to employ Japanese laborers in order to have the large crop of flax pulled. Pulling flax is hard work as there is so much stooping and it is very hard to get white laborers to do the work.

The wheat crop of the Pacific Northwest will be considerably lighter than last year, perhaps 15 or 20 per cent less; but about as much money will be received for it as for last year's crop, if prices do not fall much, and in any case this will still be a region of abounding plenty.

The Redwood Land and Investment company of Humboldt county last week sold 2800 acres of redwood timber land on the north fork of Mad river to Josiah Bell. The price paid was \$53 an acre straight through. The sellers recently bought the land for \$50,000 and their profits will nearly reach \$100,000.

The San Francisco Post says that J. D. Carr has succeeded in buying out the last independent settler on Tule lake, and is now preparing to consummate the largest land deal on this coast by selling nearly 300,000 acres, holdings in Klamath and Modoc counties, to a Scotch-English syndicate.

The biggest deal in timber lands since the Weyerhaeuser syndicate went to the state of Washington was consummated last week, when C. H. Cobb, James Campbell and Rufus Smith of Seattle and Frank Brownell of Everett paid \$1,000,000 in cash to the Dunsmuir estate for 50,000 acres of timber lands on Vancouver island. This deal has been on for more than a year.

In affirming the case of Bennett vs. Carr, the Supreme Court practically gives a death-blow to the Michigan anti-coloring oleomargarine law by declaring it not a violation of the law to manufacture or sell oleomargarine colored with an ingredient coloring matter, such for instance, as crude cotton-seed oil, which is an ingredient, and when not refined gives the product the desired butter color.

The Booth-Kelley Lumber Company are constructing one of the largest dams yet constructed in Lane county on Fall Creek. The dam is 30 feet high and will cause a rise of six feet at the mouth of the creek. Like others at this time of year, they are compelled to dam small creeks until sufficient water has been collected to cause a big rush when released, thus floating all logs below the dam further and further down the creeks.

It is necessary now to make official record of every birth and every death. A new law that is already in effect requires every physician, midwife or head of the family to give notice by the end of the month to the county health officer of any birth that occurs under his or her charge. Every physician, midwife or head of family must give notice to such health officer within 48 hours of every death. No burial can take place until a proper burial certificate has been made out and transmitted to the county health officer.

A huge dredger has been taken to Klamath Falls from Fall River, Modoc county, where it reclaimed 12,000 acres of land. It will cut a channel from Little Klamath lake through the stretch of Tule swamp to White lake through which a river of water will flow, thus making of White lake a reservoir affording a limitless supply of water to the big ditches already leading therefrom. Much land has already been reclaimed in Tule lake valley, but thousands of acres more will take on the wearing of the green when the dredger shall have completed its work.

The repeal of the timber and stone act will be, according to Senator Gibson of Montana, one of the most important measures affecting the West, that will come before the next session of Congress. The bill for this repeal has been favorably reported by the Committee on Public Lands of the Senate, but has not been acted on. It is likely to pass, however, the contest over it promising to be one of the fights of the session. It is not a party measure and it seems that the representatives of the Western States are not a unit in favor of it. The mining interests, so far as heard from, are in favor of repeal because they know in many cases much undeveloped mineral land has already been grabbed under the pretense that it is valuable "chiefly for its timber and stone", and those who favor the settlement of the states of the far west with a population such as the homestead law encourages will be a unit in favor of repeal. The party who takes up public land for its timber is rarely an actual settler, but often is one who has no intention to settle down and live in the community. The hope of the many western states lies in the coming of small farmers to take and hold the public lands.

LADIES TAKE A LOOK

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Our Spring and Summer Line of Clothing Embodies many special features that will interest you. The clothing that we sell from the Highest to the Lowest grade is in every case finely tailored and thoroughly dependable. We recommend it with confidence even though our prices are lower than any other store sell for the same quality. Also a new and up-to-date line of Ladies' and Gent's Neckwear.

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Fine Summer Dress Goods clipped in price to sharpen your interest. At this time we are selling off all things summery and yet many women want a fresh new dress or two for this month and next. Today you can choose from a variety of choice stuffs at much less than the goods have been bringing until now. 6¼c, 10c, 12½c, and on up to 50c per yard.

Summer Hats for Men. Little to pay for a new summer hat, we're doing radical clean up work among the summer stocks these days, that is our only apology for making today's little price on a lot of summer hats for men, desirable and seasonable styles.

Former prices were 25c, 65c, 75c, and \$1.00. Today they are marked 20c, 60c and 75c.

Price Reductions on Shirt Waists. An offering of Percale waists at reductions that run up to half original prices.

Bargains extraordinary in Ladies Oxfords as comparison will quickly show. \$1.50 and \$2.00.

Paying high prices becomes monotonous, try Hildebrand's for a change.

Hildebrand's

'NUF CED

P. M. Arthur, the venerable chief execution of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, fell dead while making a closing address before the convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Friday night.

Mrs. Mary J. Piercy, said to have been one of the smallest women in the world, died of heat at her home in We N York City a few days ago. She was 31 inches tall, weighed 50 pounds and was 40 years of age.

Reports from Sumpter say that never before were conditions better for stock. The late rains have resulted in one of the greatest grass crops ever known there, and as a consequence horses, cattle and sheep are doing well.

Ira L. Greninger, of Medford, is at the hospital there in a dangerous condition from blood poisoning produced from a toy pistol exploding in his hand, lacerating it very badly, while attending the celebration at Gold Hill on the 4th.

The wheat crop of Oregon, Washington and Idaho this year is estimated at 36,000 bushels. This is a fifteen per cent decrease from last year, yet the shortage will not so much be felt on account of the corresponding advance in prices.

Chicago's population is 2,231,000, according to the publishers of the Chicago city directory for 1903. The publishers figure the number of names in the directory of 1880 is to the population of that year as established by the United States census as 654,000 (the number of names in this year's directory) is to 2,231,000.

The Northwest is reputed to produce annually from 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 bushels of wheat. Of this amount no less than 30,000,000 are raised in the Inland Empire and is subject to freight rates governed by the rock in the Columbia at Celilo, and it is not unreasonable to say that the cost of building a canal would be saved in two or three years to the farmers of the three sister states. A reduction of three and one-third cents a bushel would make the Inland Empire a million dollars richer each year.

Report from La Grande says the early hay crop is being sold in town at \$11 to \$13 per ton, which is about \$4 per ton above the price in former years. The hay is late in maturing and the yield is light, presaging a scarcity this winter. Owing to the high price of hay and poor quality of grain, much grain will be cut for hay. Beets are expected to yield about two-thirds of the net tonnage of last year. Owing to light early rains some beets were plowed up, but those left are making excellent growth.

A comet which was first discovered by a French astronomer a month ago, has been visible to the naked eye in southern Oregon for several nights. Its location at present is in the constellation called Cygnus, or the swan. It is moving in a southerly direction at the rate of five degrees every 24 hours. Its present distance from the sun is 100,000,000 miles. This comet is expected to be the brightest since the comet of 1881. It now has two tails, which is rare with comets, both tails turned away from the sun. It will grow brighter and brighter each succeeding night for probably the next 15 days, after which it will be lost in the light of the sun. According to the astronomers of the Lick Observatory its nearest approach to the sun will occur on August 27th, at a distance of 31,000,000 miles.