

At a recent meeting of the Board of Regents of the State Agricultural College, salaries were increased as follows: Thos. H. Crawford, to \$1,500; F. E. Edwards, to \$900; E. C. Hayward, to \$1,080; M. C. Phillips, to \$960; F. D. McLouth, to \$900; Miss Holgate, to \$540; W. T. Shaw, to \$1,080. The salary of the secretary of the board was reduced, at his request, from \$600 to \$400 per year. All the members of the Board were present except Hon. J. D. Otwell, whose absence was due to illness.

The Manila Electric Railroad and Lighting Corporation of Hartford, Conn., with an authorized capitalization of \$6,000,000, has filed a certificate of incorporation with the Secretary of State. According to the terms of the charter, the purpose of the company is to require construct, equip, own, lease or operate in the city of Manila, Luzon, P. I., and elsewhere, street railroads, lighting, power, and ice plants, ferryboats and vessels. The company is authorized to conduct its operations in any of the possessions of the United States, and to have its offices outside of the State of Connecticut.

Speaking in regard to the adoption of amendments to the Oregon legislature, the San Francisco Star, a progressive and fearless defender of the people's rights, says: "The first thing for Oregon to do is to strike out of its constitution the cumbersome requirements, regarding amendments which were evidently written by men who considered their work too good to require any change. California has an excellent system in this respect, which might well be copied by our northern neighbor. Then let Oregon repeat its vote of last year for direct legislation, and thus place itself again among the more truly democratic states."

A young opera singer named Irma Golz, aged 29, who was suffering from an incurable complaint, recently died at Vienna in the most pathetic circumstances. At midnight she demanded to be placed in an armchair and to be dressed in the costume of La Traviata. She then took leave of her husband and relations, the room was brilliantly illuminated, and by her wish her brother played on the piano, Mendelssohn's Fuehlgesied. With her last remaining strength the dying woman then sang a song of indescribable pathos and suddenly collapsed crying "Earth to Earth." The physician lifted her up, but she was dead.

W. H. Gore has commenced cutting his second crop of alfalfa and finds the stand good—better than he had reason to expect. Mr. Gore has 200 acres of land seeded to alfalfa, and from the time the first crop is ready to cut until well into the fall it is a continual pound of haying on the farm. No sooner is the last of the first crop secured than is the second crop ready to start in on, on the land first cut. He estimates that from the 200 acres he will have 1000 tons of hay. Much of this quality and kind of hay is being sold on the local markets at \$10 per ton. It is figured that it costs one dollar a ton to harvest it. This would leave a nice, clean margin of \$9000 to Mr. Gore for his this year's crop.—Medford Mail.

The Corvallis Times says that Monday morning, many a binder in Benton was early a-field. The oats crop is all ready for cutting, and that is what the binders began on. The crop is said to be the best in years, as is also the case with wheat. Vetch, of which much will be cut for seed, is likewise very fine. Thrashing of the latter crop is expected to begin within a week or ten days. It is cut mostly with the mower, and then put into shocks, from which it is thrashed. Many of the farmers in the southern portions of the county are growing it. On the John Whitaker farm there is a hundred acres, on the J. N. McFadden farm, more than that, and smaller fields on many other places. If the yield turns out to be as good as conditions seem to promise, Benton will harvest this season the best crop it has gathered in years.

The State Land Board has made an order that all purchasers of state land who have \$50 or less due on their certificates of sale shall pay the balance and take deeds to the land. This will have the effect of making a large number of tracts of land subject to tax for state and county purposes. State land held under certificates of sale is not subject to taxation and for this reason many purchasers pay all but a small balance of the amount due, then pay interest on this balance finding it cheaper to do this than to pay taxes on the land. We think that when any party buys state land, makes a payment thereon, and obtains a certificate of sale, that the land should at once become subject to taxation. This would put an end to that plan for dodging taxes, without working an injustice to anybody.

Nearly half a million people visited the National Gallery of London in 1902 and 37,534 on the thirty Sunday afternoons on which it was open.

The Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is in session in Baltimore. It is estimated that between 18,000 and 20,000 Elks are in attendance.

Indiana has taken up forestry culture and has established a state forestry reserve of 2,000 acres, upon which trees will be grown, for distribution while young, under the observation of a school of forestry.

A party of El Paso citizens who have just returned from Casas Grande, in the heart of the Sierra Madre Mountains, report the discovery of a smoldering volcano, hitherto unknown except to a few of the natives. The volcano showed signs of a recent eruption.

It is understood at Peking that the United States, acting in concert with Japan, will make a formal demand for the opening of the Moukden and Tantungkou in Manchuria, as soon as Mr. Conger can arrange an interview with Prince Ching, head of the board of foreign affairs, and that when this point is settled the commercial treaty with the United States can be signed.

Reports from Peking indicate that China is in financial straits. She still wishes to liquidate in silver her indemnity arising from the Boxer trouble. The United States and Great Britain have accepted such payment provisionally. The other Power refuse to do so. They allege that no attempt at economic reform has been made at the Chinese Court, and that the amount of money squandered there would go a long way toward meeting the indemnity.

The Willamette valley was first stocked with cattle in 1837. In that year a pool of \$4,600 was subscribed by eleven members of the French settlement between Oregon City and Salem, and several of their number went South to the Sacramento valley, where they purchased 830 head at about five dollars and a half a head, Mexican cattle, of course. They got home with about six hundred head, pretty good considering the drive of something like five hundred miles through the wilderness, over mountains and across streams. That was nine years before Elijah Bristow made the first settlement in Lane county.

A railroad across Canada from ocean to ocean, built and owned by the Dominion government, is announced by the Canadian government. The new road will begin at Moncton, N. B., with the present government road, the Intercolonial, from Cape Breton. It will then make a straight cut to Quebec, and will then cross northern Ontario to Winnipeg. From Winnipeg the Grand Trunk line will construct the road to Port Simpson, B. C., the government guaranteeing seventy-five per cent of cost. The rates and all other details will be under government control. The road will be a national highway from end to end. During the first five years all roads will have a free use of the tracks; after that they will pay five per cent of the gross earnings.

A double-headed snake that can back up as readily as it can move forward, has been added to the natural history department of the Memorial Museum, in San Francisco. It is about 32 inches long, about as broad as the handle of a table knife, with the tail blunt at the end as the index finger. It belongs to a wholly tropical species called Amphibaena, defined as "a species of tropical lizard distinguished by the obtuseness of the head and tail." The reptile has hitherto been only found in South America and the West Indies, is sluggish and mostly nocturnal. The specimen just presented to the museum was found at Half Moon Bay, in California, and how it came to be living in the temperate zone 4000 miles from its only known habitation, is what is now puzzling local scientists.

The Iron and Machinery World in last week's issue says: "The heavy steel rail buying for 1904 delivery, which about a week ago began on a large scale in the East, has become epidemic, and the Chicago market has been remarkably lively for the past few days. The track requirements for 1904 can now be fairly well estimated by most of the roads. The needs will be large, for an unprecedentedly heavy traffic, carried in heavier trains by heavier locomotives, has tons of steel rails now in use, making replacements more extensive than usual, while second track and extensions will also call for a heavy tonnage. There seems little doubt that considerably more than three million tons of rails will be needed in 1904, and of that amount nearly five hundred thousand tons have been purchased in this present spurt. Almost every western system has opened negotiations and many have already purchased."

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British prisoners cost the nation, on an average, \$165 a year each.

France has about 4,000 duels a year and Italy 2,800 on an average.

The deepest colliery in the world is at Lambert, in Belgium—3,500 feet.

The United States government has 40 warships now under course of construction in thirteen different yards.

Japanese are always buried with their heads to the north. Consequently no Japanese will sleep in a bed lying north or south.

Every Kaffir in Cape Colony must pay a labor tax of ten shillings a year, unless he can prove that he has worked for three months of the year.

Colonel Bryan has gone to Europe to study sociology. We are sorry for the people across the ocean, but really it wasn't our fault.—Medford Mail.

Among the richer classes 343 in 1,000 live to sixty years of age, in the middle classes 175 do so, and 126 only of the laboring class survive to reach sixty years.

During the past fiscal year 413 immigrants landed and were admitted at Portland, none being turned back; 2797 were admitted at Port Townsend, 29 were excluded and six returned within one year after landing.

Trade has followed the flag to the island possession of this country. Our country now almost monopolizes the commercial business of Porto Rico, the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands. Our trade with these places is eight times as large as it was two years ago.

The total American casualties in the Spanish war and in the Philippines were less than two percent of the railroad casualties in the United States during the same time; and the total casualties, including Spanish and Philippines were but eight percent of the railroad casualties.

The Thousands of acres of desert land in Egypt are being reclaimed and devoted to the cultivation of cotton with a view to relieving the Birmingham, (Eng.) manufacturers from their present dependency on the American producers and more especially of the American speculators.

A special from Buffalo, N. Y., says that a defalcation already aggregating \$300,000 and likely to be increased, has been uncovered. The alleged defaulter is a trusted employee of a wealthy law firm. Shrewd business men unknowingly aided his schemes, one of which involved the purchase of a large tract of land. It is said the man is willing to make restitution and was not arrested. None of the firm's money was squandered. It was invested in legitimate business enterprises.

The year's consumption of tobacco in the United States alone includes seven billions of cigars, ten billions of cigarettes, and two hundred and eighty millions of pounds of manufactured tobacco. The one item of smoking and chewing tobacco exclusive of cigars, cigarettes and snuff registers an annual over-all value of more than \$500,000,000. In addition, England smokes six billions, Japan three billions and China one and a half billions of cigarette every twelve-month. This outside cigarette puffing burns up forty-five millions of pounds of tobacco and puts about \$4,000,000 into the bank account of the American grower, giving the giant balance to the trust.

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