

# RAINFALL IS BELOW NORMAL

Deficiency of 9.44 Inches in Precipitation During Last Eight Months.

The rainfall on Coos Bay this year is considerably less than in normal years, a deficiency of 9.44 inches being noted by Mrs. E. Mingus, United States government weather observer, for the period from September 1, 1907, to May 1, 1908. During April, there were fourteen clear days and four partly clear.

The following is a summary of April's weather data, as compiled by Mrs. Mingus:

Temperature.	
Mean maximum, 58.7.	
Mean minimum, 39.7.	
Mean, 49.7.	
Maximum, 81, date, 25th.	
Minimum, 31, date 7th and 25th.	
Greatest daily range, 43.	
Precipitation.	
Total, 3.38 inches.	
Greatest in 24 hours, 0.80 inches.	
Total from September 1st.	
1907, 52.04 inches.	
Normal for five years, 61.48 inches.	
Deficiency, 9.44 inches.	
Number of Days.	
With .01 inch or more precipitation:	
10; clear, 14; partly cloudy, 4; cloudy, 12.	
Date Of	
Light killing frost, 7th and 25th.	
Fog, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th. Solar halo, 30th.	
Prevailing wind direction, northwest.	
Percentage of sunshine, 55.	

## Some Theatrical Jokes.

In a performance of "The Lady of the Lake" the actor who took the part of Roderick Dhu was known to be in peculiar difficulties. When Roderick gave the line, "I am Roderick Dhu," Fitzgibbon responded, "Yes, and your rent's due too." On the production of a piece called "The Spy" the early acts showed that it was going to prove a failure. So when at a certain point a character had to rush on and shout, "Five hundred pounds for the spy!" the author-actor, who was concealed behind a rock, arose and cried, "It's yours—copyright, manuscript and parts!" That was the end of the performance.

## When eating takes place on the stage, the temptations to play tricks with the food are naturally great.

In "Henry V." the leek which that intemperate bragart Pistol has to eat is usually made from an apple. But on one occasion at Sadler's Wells the Finellen of the evening gave him a real onion, and he had no choice but to struggle through it, though the tears coursed down his fat cheeks.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

## Saved His Goldfish.

When a Bavarian peasant treats himself to a new hat, he does not throw the old hat away. He just puts the new hat on top of the old one. The other day an amusing scene was witnessed at the Munich railway station. A peasant who had bought a new hat and a bowl containing several goldfish found himself hustled by the crowd surging at the entrance to one of the platforms. In the crush the bowl was broken, and the fish fell out. For a moment the peasant knew not what to do. Suddenly he made up his mind. He snatched his two hats from his head, and, picking up the lively fish, he put them inside the old hat, which he then filled with water at the nearest water tap. Carrying the improvised aquarium, the ingenious peasant entered his train smilingly, but very carefully.—*Munich Cor. London Globe.*

## Mourning For the Deceased.

Ian MacLaren told this story of grim humor in his lecture "Scottish Traits." A Scotch criminal condemned to death was visited by his counsel, who hoped to cheer him up just before the execution. After some words of cheer he said: "Is there anything I can do for you?" "Thank you, there is one thing you can do for me before I am executed." "What is that?" "I would ask you to go to my chest and fetch my Sabbath blacks." "And what do you want with your Sabbath blacks?" "I wish to wear them as a mark of respect to the deceased."—*Lyceumite and Talent.*

## Fire Insurance.

There are traces in earlier times of enforced or voluntary contributions toward the relief of sufferers by fire, but it is only about the beginning of the seventeenth century that we hear of proposals being made for a more systematic provision, and it was not till after the great fire in London in 1666 that these proposals took practical shape. This seems at first to have been in the form of underwriting by individuals or by clubs, and some attempts were made to engage the corporation of London in a scheme of fire insurance, but in 1681 the first regular office for insuring against losses by fire was opened near the Royal Exchange, and it was followed shortly afterward by others.

# FREIGHT RATES TO BE ADVANCED

Railroads Plan to Make a Gradual Increase if Public Doesn't Kick Too Hard.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, May 5.—It appears likely that the anticipated increase in railroad freight rates is about to be made. A few days ago, a number of the Interstate Commerce Commission expressed the opinion that within three or four months, unless there was a decided improvement in railroad conditions, it would probably be necessary for the common carriers to either increase their rates or reduce the wages of employees. The railroads of the southeastern territory have filed with the interstate commerce commission tariffs, effective June 1st, which increase the rates on fresh meats materially. The proposed rates are effective on meats from the north and west at Ohio and Mississippi river crossings and amount to from three to ten cents per hundred pounds on fresh meats. This is the first material raise in rates on food stuffs by railroads in many years, and will mean that consumers will pay from one to two cents per pound more for meats. The increase is looked upon as a feeler of public sentiment in view of making a general increase in freight rates on all commodities.

## Facing a Waterspout.

What it means to encounter a waterspout in the south seas is described by Beatrice Grimshaw: "First of all, a black trunk, like an elephant's, began to feel dimly about in midair, hanging from a cloud. It came nearer and nearer with uncanny speed, drawing up to itself as it came a colossal cone of turbulent sea until the two joined together in an enormous black pillar some quarter of a mile broad at the base and probably a good thousand feet high, uniting as it did the clouds and the sea below. Across the darkening sea, against the threatening copper crimson sunset, came this gigantic horror, waiting over troughs of torn up water in a veritable dance of death, like something blind, but mad and cruel, trying to find and shatter our fragile little ship."

## A Gladstone Bull.

Mr. Gladstone dearly loved a joke, even at his own expense, and he possessed considerable mimetic powers. He was once guilty of an amusing bull in a debate on the question of disestablishment. Dilating on the hold held on the affections of the people by the Church of England, he said: "When an Englishman wants to get married, to whom does he go? To the parish priest. When he wants his child baptized, to whom does he go? To the parish priest. When he wants to get buried, to whom does he go?" The house answered with a roar of laughter, in which Mr. Gladstone himself joined, adding, "As I was contrasting the English church with the Irish, a bull is perhaps excusable."

## Mic Punishment.

It was beginning to rain, and a man who was on the point of starting for church discovered that there wasn't an umbrella in the house fit for use. "You can borrow one from the T-s next door," suggested his better half. "No, never go to church." "No, Laura," he answered with firmness. "It is wrong to borrow umbrellas on Sunday. I shall punish myself for my carelessness by not going to church this morning."

## Man and a Carpet.

Clara—"I'll give you a conundrum. Why is a man like a carpet?" Tom—"I give it up. Clara—Well, he's no sooner down than people walk all over him. Tom—Oh, pshaw! Man is totally unlike a carpet, for the more dust he has the less likely he is to get the shake.—*Illustrated Bits.*

## A Very Mad Dog.

A little girl came running to tell about a mad dog she had seen. "We saw a mad dog," she gasped, but the words seemed too tame to do justice to the situation. "Oh, he was mad, mad!" she added, frowning and pumping her fists. "He was furious!"—*Harper's Weekly.*

## A Thinking Part.

The Old One—In adopting a theatrical career you are entering a touchy and jealous profession. Keep guard over your tongue. The New One—Oh, I've found out that I'll have ample opportunity to think before I speak!—*Puck.*

## Were Nagged by Their Wives.

Rip Van Winkle, Socrates, Petruccio, Agamemnon, Joseph Gargery, Solomon, Mr. Candle, Mr. H. Peck and Bandle Bumble. Any additions sent in to this list will be regarded in the strictest confidence.—*Chicago Tribune.*

## Rebuked.

"Yaas," said Cholly Silley, "she was out when I called, but I hope for better luck next time." "How ungentlemanly of you!" exclaimed Miss Knox. "You should wish her the good luck!"—*Exchange.*



## SPARED THE ENEMY.

### A Spanish Governor's Generosity in the War of 1746.

In the year 1746, when England was engaged in war with Spain, Captain Edwards of the Elizabeth of London, coming through the gulf from Jamaica richly laden, met with a violent storm. The ship sprang a leak that obliged it to run into the port of Havana. The captain went on shore and waited on the governor and told him of the occasion of his putting in, adding that he surrendered the ship as a prize as well as himself and crew prisoners of war, only requesting good quarters.

"No, sir," replied the governor. "If we had taken you in fair sea or approaching our own coast with hostile intentions, your ship would then be a lawful prize and your people prisoners, but when, distressed by the hand of Providence, you come to our port for safety of your lives we, being men, though enemies, are bound by the laws of humanity to afford relief to the distressed who ask it of us. We cannot, even against our foes, take advantage of the act of God. You have leave therefore to unload your ship, if that be necessary to stop the leak. You may fit her here and traffic so far, besides, as shall be needful to pay the charges. When repaired you may depart. I will give you a pass to be in force till beyond Bermuda. If after that you are taken then you will be a lawful prize, whereas now, as you are only a stranger, you have a stranger's right to safety and protection."

Here was fairness. The ship departed and arrived without any further accident in the port of London.

## AN ANCIENT BANQUET.

### Menu of a Christmas Dinner Served in Feudal Times.

"A Christmas dinner in feudal times," said an antiquary, "was served at 11 o'clock in the morning. It began with plum pudding, or plum porridge, as they called it in their old fashioned way: a suet pudding stuffed with raisins, currants, prunes, mace, cloves and ginger. "Next came a bear's head on a silver platter decorated with holly. This dish was heralded by a flourish of trumpets and the lighting of the great Yule log. The head had a lemon in its mouth. A hot mustard sauce went with it. "The third course was a peacock in full plumage. Its beak was gilded, and it was stuffed with spices and sweet herbs. "Geese and capons followed drenched with amber grease, and then came frumenty, for which I'll give you the recipe: "The old man read here from his notebook: "Frumenty.—Take clean wheat and brye it in a mortar till the hulls be all gone off and seethe it till it burst, and take it up and let it cool, and take clean fresh broth and sweet milk of almonds or sweet milk of kine and temper it all, and take the yolks of eggs. Boll it a little and wet it down and mess it forth with fat venison. "There were other fixings," the antiquary ended, "such as hacken sausage, brawn pudding and souse, cheese, apples and nuts. The drinks were beer, malvoisie and sherris sack."

## Canaries Steamship Pets.

Few and far between are the steamships entering the port of Boston that cannot boast of a canary. No matter how battered and rusty the craft may be, one is pretty sure to find the canary somewhere in the rooms of the officers or crew. Its cage, as a rule, is a wonderful creation of brass wire and lace, and the canary himself usually is a singer whose trill and whistle are of the best. The little songsters appear to enjoy life on the ocean. Seldom are they inconvenienced by the motion of the vessel, and the more the cage swings from its hook the more they warble. Sailors will tell you a canary is a mascot. Be that as it may, the canaries are great pets. Frequently one may see a sailor on the water front lugging his bird and cage to some new berth.—*Boston Herald.*

## A Neat Bit of Selfishness.

"For several years," said a married man, "I did not have a taste of tenderloin at home, as I sat at the head of the table and was compelled to give that part of the steak to my wife. A year ago I invited her to sit at the head of the table and do the carving, since which time I have always had the tenderloin, for she politely gives me the best cut, which I accept indifferently, as though I do not know what it is. I respectfully lay the suggestion before the Society of Cluck Eating Husbands."—*Atchison Globe.*

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