

BRIEF PACIFIC COAST NEWS

A Resume of Events in the Northwest.

EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

News Gathered in All the Towns of Our Neighboring State.—Improvement Noted in All Industries—Oregon.

A young cyclone passed through the timber near Fox valley last week, and a great deal of timber was blown down.

The ordinances preventing cows from running at large and for cutting thistles will be strictly enforced in The Dalles.

According to the report given the county court by George Tregaskis, stock inspector, there are over 110,000 sheep in Harney county, not including lambs.

Bandover & Co. propose putting in a mill at their Olalla, Douglas county, mine. The firm has sunk a shaft ten feet, and at that depth the assays run from \$9.50 to \$50 a ton, it is said.

The Long Creek Eagle, of Grant county, is informed that over 200 sheep are dead on the range between the middle and north fork of the John Day river, the result of poison on the range.

The Umatilla county grand jury cautioned justices of the peace against issuing warrants for the arrest of persons charged with petty offenses, unless the judge should be satisfied that the evidence is sufficient to convict or that the accused is attempting to leave the county or state.

C. B. Wade, cashier of the First National bank, of Pendleton, says, after a personal inspection of seventy-five wheat fields in Umatilla county, and upon careful inquiry, that the damage to the wheat crop in Umatilla county, done by hot weather, has been on the average, 50 per cent.

It looks as though Salem and Marion county were to become famous by reason of the newspaper sketch artists produced from that section, says the Statesman. F. F. Bowers, a bright and conscientious cartoonist, has been summoned by telegraph to the office of a San Francisco paper and to assume the duties of a valuable assignment.

The directors of The Dalles, Portland & Astoria Navigation Company visited the Cascade Locks, where they met the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, who were looking over the state portage. The portage was damaged but little by the high water, and will require only slight repairs before it can be operated. The repairs will be made as soon as the water goes down sufficiently to allow The Dalles City to land at the lower end of the incline.

The county court of Union county has reduced by one the deputies in the offices of sheriff and clerk. In the matter of the deputyship for the school superintendent's office, which in a public way has been conferred on Miss Nellie Stevens, it is stated that the county court will not favor her appointment in that capacity, the board taking the grounds that disqualification as to the principalship also disqualifies her from discharging the duties of the office as deputy.

Washington. The city council of Puyallup has appropriated \$25 for cutting the thistles in the streets and highways of that town.

During the month of June the Eggert & Johnson Company at Getchell, in Snohomish county, cut 2,175,000 shingles.

Government Architect Aaron E. Johnson, who will have charge of building Spokane's new army post, has arrived in that city to assume his duties.

According to the report of the director of the mint, Kittitas county took the lead in mineral production in Washington last year, and produced one-third of the gold of the state.

George H. Lowe, a Georgia melon planter, has booked an order to ship two carloads of the green-above-the-red fruit to Seattle, 3,000 miles. The freight charge is \$350 per carload.

Captain Kingsbury, who has been employed as engineer of the Yakima reservation ditch, reports that the channel will carry 164 feet of water per second, sufficient to water 40,000 acres of land.

The oyster men of Mason county have all been notified by the state land commissioners that their deeds for oyster lands are ready for them, and they are happy, as the work of years is bearing fruit.

At the Day logging camp, at Oak Point, in Cowlitz county, a logging railroad is being built. It will be about five miles in length, and will tap a large body of excellent timber; heavy steel rails will be used, and the track will be standard gauge.

A few weeks ago a quantity of flax straw, grown on Puget sound, was shipped by the Seattle chamber of commerce to Barbour & Sons, of Lisburn, Ireland. The manufacturers report that the samples are excellent, and very similar to that grown in the Courtrai district in Belgium.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR'S REPORT

On River and Harbor Work in the Pacific Northwest.

Washington, July 20.—The report of Captain Harry Taylor, of the engineer corps, who has charge of the river and harbor work in the Northwest, has been made to the secretary of war.

The work on Willapa river and harbor, in Washington, has been completed and twenty-one feet of water secured, but some shoals need to be dredged yet. No further appropriations will be required.

For the improvement of Grays harbor and bar, a plan for a jetty 3 1/2 miles to the sea on the south side of the harbor, to secure a low-water depth of 24 feet, has been decided upon, and contracts will be let for the work. It is recommended that the full amount permitted by law—\$400,000—be appropriated for the next fiscal year.

In Gray's harbor and Chehalis river, to carry the dredging to a depth of sixteen feet will largely exceed the estimate of cost.

The extension of the Northern Pacific railway to the lower-harbor towns is said to have lessened the importance of the river as a highway, so that no coasting vessels have navigated it above Cosmopolis since 1892, and it is recommended that the plan for dredging a channel through the shoals to give coasting vessels access to Montesano be reconsidered.

The importance of greater facilities for keeping the rivers flowing into Puget sound free from obstruction is urged. In connecting Puget sound with Lakes Union and Washington, the Smith's cove route is favored, and the engineer urges that preliminary work be done before right of way is secured, and says that \$500,000 can be profitably expended during the year.

The earnestness of the people of Everett for pushing the work of their harbor is commended, and \$15,000 is recommended to be expended during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898.

The opening of Swinomish slough at the earliest possible date is urged. It is reported that the expense of carrying out the project for removing boulders, etc., from the Upper Columbia and Snake rivers is so great that it should not be begun with the present appropriation.

POPULIST PLATFORM.

Drawn up in California for the St. Louis Convention.

San Francisco, July 20.—F. M. Wardell, chairman of the Populist state central committee of California, and J. Taylor Rogers, Mayor Sutro's secretary, have prepared a platform which it is proposed to present to the national Populist convention at St. Louis next week. The financial plank is as follows:

"We demand a national money, issued directly by the general government only, as a full legal tender for all debts and issued without the agency of any private corporation or bank, and in circulating volume; subject to law and responsive to our needs, and speedily to be increased to \$50 per capita of the entire people.

"Such money shall consist of gold, silver and paper, each dollar thereof endowed with the same function, imparted solely by the stamp thereon, and not dependent for its money value upon the price of the material used. Each dollar shall be interchangeable with, but not redeemable in the other, and shall be denominated respectively gold, silver or paper money—all national debts being payable in either, at the option of the government.

"As the United States is a free and powerful nation and the financial and industrial liberty of its citizens should be independent of the action of any other government, we demand the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver by the United States at the present ratio of 16 to 1, without reference to the course of any foreign nation.

"We demand that all national banks be abolished, and in lieu of them that the government establish a postal bank in each city, town and village of the United States containing a population of 1,000 or more."

The platform also declares for the recognition of Cuba and against the refunding of the Pacific railroad debts.

A Woman's Terrible Deed.

Butte, July 20.—Mrs. Rose Heimbeck, wife of Ed Heimbeck, of Meaderville, became jealous of the attentions her husband paid Mrs. Thomas Snelling. In company with her sister, Mrs. Hoskins, she went to the Snelling home today, and calling Mrs. Snelling into the parlor, Mrs. Heimbeck threw a pint of sulphuric acid on her. Mrs. Snelling is terribly burned and will die. Mrs. Heimbeck and her sister are under arrest. The latter is a raving maniac in the county jail, and is expected to die also.

Bottle Paper from the Narcotic.

London, July 20.—At the office of the White Star line in this city word was received that at Hoy lake, near Birkenhead, a bottle was picked up recently which contained the following written on a slip of paper:

"Struck iceberg. Sinking fast. Mid-ocean. Narcotic. (Signed) Young."

The steamer Narcotic, one of the largest and finest freighters of the White Star line, sailed from Liverpool February 11, 1893, for New York, and from that time to this has never been heard from.

MINERS IN ALASKA.

Not All of the Gold Hunters Are Discouraged.

Tacoma, Wash., July 18.—The Ledger received a letter tonight from Fred Meeker, dated at Six-Mile creek, Cook's inlet, Alaska, June 20. He writes that while there are many dissatisfied miners who are anxious to leave, there are others who propose to thoroughly prospect the country before quitting. He gives the first definite information regarding gold finds. He says there are claims in the Six-Mile district which the owners claim paid as high as \$50 per day per man last year. From one on Canyon creek, \$1,200 was taken in nine days. The best claim there is supposed to be the Mills claim, at the mouth of Canyon creek, which is claimed to have paid \$50 per day per man last season. He says the best ground is not on Six-Mile, but its tributaries, particularly Mills creek, a branch of Canyon creek. Holders of some claims want \$35,000 for them, but there are no buyers at such figures. Some of these yield \$1 to \$2 per pan. The miners all got in too early, but four months then remained for work. The most can be accomplished in August and September, when the water is lowest.

Float quartz is plentiful in creek bottoms, and Mr. Meeker is satisfied that good quartz leads will be found. Prospecting is very difficult, as the ground is covered with moss six to eighteen inches thick, which is too wet to burn and remains frozen in the shade. When he wrote a party was able to leave, taking thirty days' supplies, for a trip up Twenty-Mile river, where good indications had been found. If a single rich creek bottom is found, there will be ground enough for all the miners at Cook's inlet.

BRADSTREETS' VIEWS.

No Disposition Shown to Engage in New Enterprises.

New York, July 20.—Bradstreet's weekly trade review says: Nearly all general merchandise markets continue dull, and the volume of business is smaller than anticipated. Little or no disposition is shown to engage in new enterprises, both city and country merchants continuing to purchase with more than usual conservatism, in view of the unsettled financial outlook and the low range of prices. The total number of business failures in the United States this week shows an increase—255 compared with 219 last week. When contrasted with the corresponding week in 1895, the increase during the past six business days is 41, and with the second week of July, 1894, the current week's increase is 43. During the corresponding week of 1893, however, in the middle of the panic, there were more than twice as many failures as this week.

Among the other favorable features are relatively encouraging reports concerning trade at nine business centers, together with an improvement in quotations for wheat, corn, oats and pork, and firm or unchanged prices for wool, sugar, lumber, leather and print cloth. Rains have improved crop prospects in Washington. The week has been marked at San Francisco by the departure of a trainload of fruit for Los Angeles, a carload for Australia, and two ships loaded with lumber for Europe.

Exports of wheat, flour included, from both coasts of the United States and from Montreal this week amount to 2,963,000 against 2,167,000 last week, 1,652,000 in the corresponding week last year, 1,873,000 in the second week of July, 1894, and as compared with 5,077,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1893.

Japanese Treasure Bearers.

Chicago, July 20.—Five diminutive, dark-skinned Japanese are at the Auditorium, almost unobserved, in the crowd of comparatively gigantic Americans. Although they came without flourish, the visitors have it in their power to disturb the exchange rate of the world, for they are on their way to London to collect the Chinese war indemnity, amounting to more than \$150,000,000. The party includes Sonoda Kokishi, president of the Yokohama specie bank.

"The money we are to handle," said President Sonoda Kokishi, "is to be delivered to us in gold in London. The amount is \$150,000,000 with added interest. One-half of this sum has been paid over to the Bank of Japan, in London, and the remainder is to be paid when we arrive. The Bank of Japan is to receive the money for the government. It will then be handed over to me as representative of the Yokohama specie bank. In addition to the indemnity our government also gets 30,000,000 taels, about \$6,000,000 for the cession of the Liao Tung peninsula and 500,000 taels yearly while troops are stationed at Wei-Hai-Wei."

Strained Relations.

Athens, July 20.—The Greek government has decided to send reinforcements of troops to the Graeco-Turkish frontier, owing to the strained relations between Greece and Turkey, immediately growing out of the Cretan insurrection.

Cholera in Egypt.

Cairo, July 20.—There were 395 fresh cases of cholera reported Tuesday and Wednesday and 419 deaths from that disease.

DRAIN ON THE RESERVE.

Gold Going Out of the Treasury at a Rapid Rate.

New York, July 17.—Drains on the gold reserve in the subtreasury continue, both in gold taken for export and for hoarding, although the amounts withdrawn lately are comparatively insignificant. It is these small amounts, however, which disturb financiers and cause an additional depression in the stock market.

Reports were current and found ready credence that steamships sailing for Europe this week will take away the largest quantity of gold shipped in any one week in months. Several of the largest gold shipping banking-houses were said to be preparing to make shipments and they would not deny the report. The rate of exchange also advanced to a point near where gold shipments will be profitable, and in addition the report that the Rothschilds are to issue a new \$200,000,000 loan of gold to aid Russia in going to the gold basis was thought to be an indication that other large shipments on special contract will be made. Deputy Assistant Treasurer Auhman, of the subtreasury, in speaking of this loan said:

"If the loan is made it will quite naturally result in gold being withdrawn from this country, but I have no information as to the loan, and therefore cannot make a prediction."

The amount of gold which it is said will be withdrawn from the subtreasury for shipment this week is variously estimated at from \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000.

The gold in the treasury today is estimated at \$98,271,000, and predictions are made that by the 1st of August the gold reserve will be close to \$90,000,000. There has as yet been no talk of a probable issue of bonds in case the reserve falls to a dangerously low figure, but several well known bankers say there need be no alarm on that score, for President Cleveland will undoubtedly issue bonds at any time he may deem it necessary.

IN A LOSING BUSINESS.

Unprofitable Loans Made by the State on Lands.

Salem, Or., July 17.—In each county of the state, with the exception of Crook and Harney, the state board of school land commissioners has appointed attorneys. It is the duty of the board's attorneys to receive applications for loans on real estate in their respective counties, to examine titles, make recommendations to the board, and to attend to collections, making foreclosures, when directed by the board.

In the matter of a \$2,500 loan, made to Alex McKenna in Grant county, at the time of foreclosure there was \$1,053.33 interest due, \$153.93 unpaid taxes, \$27 court costs, and the attorney claims \$200 as his fee, making a total amount of \$3,939.26. The land sold for \$700, leaving the state loser by over \$3,200. The Grant county attorney made three other foreclosures this year. In a loan of \$300 to J. W. and Lum Lemon, the accrued interest, court costs and attorney's fees amounted to \$1,244.12. In a loan to Samuel C. Hillis, the principal was \$2,000, and the interest, taxes, costs of court and attorney's fees, \$731.85, making a total of \$2,731.85. The interest, court costs and attorney's fees, added to the principal of \$700 loan to M. D. Cameron, gives a total of \$973.93. The property was bid in by the state in the three last cases and it is not certain that it can realize on the property the amount invested, \$7,949.98.

The total amount of the common school fund of the state is over \$2,500,000. The total amount of the agricultural fund is over \$132,000. The university fund approximates \$102,000.

Coinage of Silver Dollars.

Washington, July 17.—Owing to the fact that the amount of silver dollars in the treasury available for the redemption of treasury notes has become reduced to \$10,659,582, and will be further reduced by redemption during the month, the coinage of silver dollars by the mints will be increased from \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000 per month from August 1. From March 1, 1893, the treasury held 29,390,461 standard silver dollars for the redemption of treasury notes issued under the act of July 14, 1890. Since March 1, 1893, the coinage of silver dollars has aggregated \$11,983,056. Of this sum, however, \$2,311,677 was profits, or seigniorage, which leaves \$9,671,379 for the redemption of treasury notes. The amount of treasury notes redeemed in silver dollars and cancelled from November 1, 1893, to July 14, 1896, was \$28,402,258.

Hawaii Admits Wines Free.

Washington, July 17.—According to the report of United States Consul Mills, at Honolulu, the Hawaiian legislature has passed an act admitting wines containing less than 15 per cent. alcohol free of duty, and increased the duty on spirituous liquors. In consequence, California wines, which have been taxed 15 per cent. per gallon, will escape import duties.

London, July 17.—A dispatch from Hammerfest, Norway, says a party of tourists arrived there from Dane's island today and report Herr Andre's balloon, in which he planned to set out on his voyage to the north pole, will not be ready before August.

LIGHTNING'S QUEER FREAKS.

Unexpected Results of Many Strokes of the Electric Fluid.

Few natural phenomena show so many eccentricities of behavior as Jove's thunderbolts. Machine-made electricity, especially when playing the truant, is tricky enough, but the fiery product of the clouds is still more original, inconsistent and lawless. In small towns, or in the outskirts of large ones, where the houses are detached from one another, and are 50 or 100 feet apart, one frequently hears of damage by lightning; it is seldom a row of brownstone-fronted buildings, a block of stores, a fifteen or twenty story apartment house, or a sky-scraper office building, in those portions of a city which are built up solidly, is hurt in any way.

So long has this state of affairs existed and been recognized that it has affected the business of making and erecting lightning rods. If a man should institute a special search for such apparatus in the older part of the metropolis, with an opera-glass in his hand and a high window or roof for his post of observation, he might well ask whether the lightning rod has not become, like the dodo, an extinct species. Eventually, a few tall, slender church spires and certain classes of buildings under the control of federal or municipal bureaus would be found displaying metallic bristles, connected by a copper cable with the ground.

But these and the few other discoverable exceptions would only serve to emphasize the rule. Inquiry reveals, however, that an extensive business in lightning rods is still carried on. They are seen as frequently as ever in small towns and on farms. Occasionally, you will hear of a man who has a house and big warehouses in the city which are not provided with these safeguards, but who employs them abundantly on his country house and stock barns. It is said that Mr. Edison and Mr. Westinghouse, who are supposed to know a thing or two about electricity, protect their houses and shops which are isolated structures in this way; and weather bureau experts and other scientists who have investigated the subject declare that a properly constructed lightning rod has a distinct value. It is clear, therefore, that this time-honored institution is not going out of favor except in big cities.

The singular indifference which the lightning seems to manifest toward great centers of population is probably not due to the nonconducting qualities of the brick and stone so largely used there in the construction of buildings. On the other hand, most of the theories advanced to account for the puzzling phenomenon in question assume that, in some way or other, better facilities exist in and near great cities than elsewhere for relieving a thunder cloud of the superabundant electricity and leading the same quietly to the earth. The vast number of chimneys, flagstaves, spires and other upward projections from the roofs, especially when well wetted, facilitate a silent discharge in innumerable small streams. The complicated network of telegraph and telephone wires reaching through the streets, high in air, has also been credited with disseminating a good deal of electricity during thunderstorms. A third factor in the situation may possibly be found in the steel frames of some of the modern high buildings. Certainly, if the metallic portions of the roof of one of these structures were properly connected with the frame, and if the latter reached down into permanently moist soil, the combination would afford a lightning rod of exceptional efficiency and proportions. Distribute the credit among the various agents as one may, there is evidently a set of conditions existing in large cities which tend to lessen the violence of lightning there, and which appreciably affects the demand for lightning rods.

Listening.

In discussing the art of conversation nearly all the attention is given to what is said. The matter and the manner of our words, the motives which prompt them, the wisdom which chooses them, their probable effects for good or for evil, receive and deserve much scrutiny. Comparatively little notice is taken of the other half of conversation, which consists in listening.

It is usually regarded as a simple passive condition, needing no particular effort, and, therefore, no special consideration. Like a vessel which merely holds the liquid poured into it, the listener is supposed for the time to be only receptive, all his active faculties being reserved for the time when he comes to reply.

The common phrase, "having nothing to do but listen," betrays the small respect paid to the act, and the slight effort it is thought possible to put into it.

Thus it happens that, as no one is systematically taught and trained to listen, we have few really good listeners among us, and, for want of them, much good speaking is absolutely wasted.

For listening is an art, having as many grades and qualities as any other, and, until this is recognized, the value of conversation must be sadly limited.

Lots of people are afraid of a cyclone who are not afraid of the devil.