

# BRIEF PACIFIC COAST NEWS

A Resume of Events in the Northwest.

## EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

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

The John Day flouring mill, having ground up all the wheat in sight, is now idle.

Marion county's assessment for 1896 has already cost \$7,000, and the end is not yet, says the Statesman.

A colony of Illinois people will leave that state in March or April, to settle in the southern part of Yamhill county and the southern part of Polk county.

Fred Kemper, of Pendleton, who won a cayuse at a raffle the other day, gave the beast back to its original owner and treated him for taking the cayuse off his hands.

Engineer Dillman, of the Astoria railway, says that there are 400 men at work near Rainier and the Clatskanie, and that two big dredgers are being run night and day.

Henry Buccholz, a prominent citizen of Tamarack, Uamilla county, is burning charcoal. It takes five days to burn a pit, and he has to watch it day and night, and camps by the pit.

The Wallowa stage was wrecked last week by an accident on Wallowa hill. There were three passengers that day, but they got out to walk just before the stage started down the hill, so that nobody was injured.

G. W. McKinney, of Brownsville, last week butchered a hog that dressed 62 pounds, from which he rendered 150 pounds of lard, and the Brownsville Times asks if any Willamette farmer can beat the record.

Mrs. James Crosby, of Monmouth, Or., has a family Bible, printed in Edinburgh, Scotland, that has been handed down in the family for several generations; crossed the ocean to America, and now lies on the center table of Mrs. Crosby. It is prized very highly, and is still in a state of good preservation.

The body of a white man washed ashore on the beach about half a mile south of the mouth of Hunter's creek, in Curry county recently. The coroner's jury was unable to identify the body, and found a verdict of death by drowning. The body was that of a man about six feet tall, with very small hands and feet, and weighing about 180 pounds.

During the storm in November, Otto Kohler shipped 3,500 sheep from The Dalles to Columbus, Neb., and arrived there in due time, losing only four sheep on the trip. Mr. Kohler writes back that he is feeding his sheep at the farm of Nic Blazer, an uncle of John Blazer, of The Dalles, near Columbus, where he gets shelled corn for twenty cents a bushel, and other feed at corresponding low prices.

### Washington.

Jabez Cowles, an old citizen of Clark county, died at his home near Woodland last week.

The Ellensburg city council has made a reduction in the salaries of city officials that will amount to \$30.

The Spokane street car company's receipts during the year have averaged \$30 a day more than last year, says the Spokane Chronicle.

A farmer of Cow City lost 4,000 bushels of potatoes by the November freeze, and a Toledo man lost 1,000 bushels. There seems to have been a heavy loss all over Lewis county.

Blackleg is making its appearance among the cattle in Kittitas county. Mr. Otis Hoyer, stockman and farmer, says that three of his neighbors have lost from six to ten head of cattle, each caused by this disease.

The state treasurer has issued a call for state warrants on the general fund, numbered 18,491 to 18,725 inclusive, amounting in the aggregate to \$21,651.49. Interest on these warrants will cease after January 1, 1897.

The Washington State Historical Society at Tacoma has filed articles of incorporation. Their purpose is the collection and preservation in substantial form of objects of traditional and historical interest to the state. Their main headquarters will be in Tacoma.

Alfred Snyder, 70 years of age, and one of Seattle's pioneer residents, died the other night at Port Blakely, where he went some time ago to act as tallyman at the big mill. Mr. Snyder has always been held in high esteem by the older residents who knew him well, and his death is much regretted.

Harry Parlin, a brakeman on the O. R. & N., was taken to the hospital at Walla Walla last week, suffering from a scalp wound inflicted by a coupling-pin. He was standing beside the draw-head when the cars came together in such a manner as to throw the pin in the air with great force. The pin struck him a glancing blow on the head, and bounded ten feet higher. Had it struck him squarely it probably would have killed him instantly.

### ARMS FOR CUBA.

Steamers Dauntless and Commodore Apply for Clearance Papers.

Washington, Jan. 1.—For the first time since the present struggle in Cuba began this government has given permission to customs officials to clear for Cuba a vessel loaded, according to manifest, with munitions of war, presumably for the insurgent army.

Yesterday the secretary of the treasury received a telegram from the owners of the Dauntless at Jacksonville stating that they would apply to the collector of customs at Jacksonville for a clearance to Cuban port with cargo of arms, but the oaths required by the statutes would not be taken. The question was asked whether under these circumstances papers would be issued. Later a telegram was received from the collector at Jacksonville stating an application to clear the Dauntless for Neuvius, Cuba, with a cargo of arms, had been made, and asking instructions.

This morning the secretary replied substantially as follows:

"If the master of the vessel and the owners, shippers and consignors of the cargo comply fully with the laws and regulations concerning the manifest and take the oaths required, you may grant a clearance to Neuvius, Cuba. Oaths must be taken and subscribed in writing, as required by section 4197, 4198 and 4200 of the revised statutes."

The port named as the destination is on the northern coast of Cuba and is occupied by Spanish forces. Treasury officials therefore are of the opinion that the oaths required will not be taken.

Last afternoon the collector of customs at Jacksonville wired the secretary of the treasury that the steamer Commodore had applied for clearance papers upon practically the same statement of facts as in the case of the Dauntless. In response the secretary wired permission to issue papers to the Commodore in substantially the same terms as were named in the former case. Up to the hour of closing the department no information had been received as to the movements of either vessel, or whether the conditions imposed had been accepted.

### FIFTY YEARS IN OFFICE.

The Long Service of a Pennsylvania Postmaster.

Philadelphia, Jan. 1.—Joseph Strode, of Mifflin county, is the oldest postmaster in the United States; that is to say, the oldest in continuous service, for he has held the position of postmaster at Strode's Mills since 1845, despite changes of administrations, political upheavals, the war and the silver agitation.

Strode's Mills is a pretty little village in the central portion of the state, surrounded by rich farming lands and valuable ore and sand mines.

Joseph Strode is in his 82d year, and it is believed he will hold the job until he is too old to fill it. He is the pride and joy of the postoffice department in Washington, which placed his picture in the government display at the world's fair.

The Strodes are an old noble family. They came from England in 1650 and settled in the valley of Virginia. In 1778 Joseph Strode, the present postmaster's grandfather, came to Pennsylvania and settled in the vicinity of what is now Strode's Mills.

The oldest postmaster is a Republican and has never missed voting since he was allowed to.

He has never been ill, and is possessed of all his faculties. He was appointed during the administration of President Polk.

### A Village Bank Looted.

St. Louis, Jan. 1.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from Des Moines, Ia., says: Word comes from Sally, a small town near Newton, that robbers looted the bank at that place last night. The bank was incorporated in 1881 with a capital of \$3,000. The deposits were about \$17,000. A. S. Smith is president and L. A. Sherman cashier. Details of the robbery are hard to obtain, because the town has no telegraphic connection. It is reported the robbers entered the bank, blew open the safe with dynamite and carried away an amount of cash estimated at from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

### Killed an Innocent Man.

Salem, Ind., Jan. 1.—Detective Sexton and Deputy Jailer Brown, of Louisville, Ky., received information that Richard Brooks, an escaped prisoner from Louisville, was at the house of Richard Land, four miles from here, and went to the house. Land, seeing the party was armed, ordered his hired man, John Ripley, to get a gun and repel the attack. At this the officers opened fire and killed Ripley. The officers gave themselves up and are in jail. Brooks was not at the Land home.

### Cashed Insanity.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Fred L. Wood, a convict in San Quentin prison, who recently inherited a fortune of \$20,000 from the estate of his father, a Chicago millionaire, is insane. He became violent in his cell Monday night, and had to be forcibly removed to the receiving hospital. It is thought his recent good fortune, together with the constraint attendant upon his confinement in the penitentiary, is the cause of his insanity.

Harry Parlin, a brakeman on the O. R. & N., was taken to the hospital at Walla Walla last week, suffering from a scalp wound inflicted by a coupling-pin.

He was standing beside the draw-head when the cars came together in such a manner as to throw the pin in the air with great force. The pin struck him a glancing blow on the head, and bounded ten feet higher.

Had it struck him squarely it probably would have killed him instantly.

### THE BOILER EXPLODED.

Fireman Fatally Scalded at the Medical Lake Asylum.

Medical Lake, Wash., Dec. 31.—At 12 o'clock this morning this town was shaken by a heavy explosion, which was by many thought to be the shock of an earthquake. Some buildings were very perceptibly jarred, and their windows rattled furiously. It was not until after daylight that the cause was generally known, when it was found that one of the boilers at the hospital for the insane had exploded. There were four boilers in use, generally for steam and heating purposes, all enclosed in a brick house at the rear of the hospital, but immediately adjoining. One of these boilers had exploded with such force as to utterly demolish it, throwing fragments in every direction. A large section of it was driven backward against the head of one of the other boilers, driving the latter from its foundation and partly into the rear wall of the house.

Fritz Theilman, the night fireman, was standing near the boiler at the moment of the explosion, and was blown out into the yard along with the flying bricks, pieces of boiler, timbers, etc., and so badly scalded and internally injured that his life is despaired of. He says everything was in proper shape with the boilers, and he cannot account for the explosion. The boiler-house will have to be entirely rebuilt and the remaining boilers reset on their foundations.

### A DESPERATE SUICIDE.

Woman Throws Herself Under Her Husband's Locomotive.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 31.—Ella Eager, whose body, torn and dismembered, was found on the road of the Shore Line in this city, committed suicide by throwing herself under the wheels of the locomotive which her husband, Engineer Fred Eager, was running. The couple had quarreled two weeks before and had separated. The wife grew moody over her misfortune, and the neighbors say that she often remarked that she wished she were dead.

At 6 o'clock in the evening she put on her things and went out. She went to the station and her husband saw her there just as he had come on for duty, ready to make his run to New London. He did not appear anxious to see his wife, and it is supposed that Mrs. Eager, noticing his indifference, became desperate and resolved on suicide.

The woman walked away from the depot and followed a route along the railroad track. Her husband's train started at 6:45. At that hour she was a few hundred yards from the depot. The train came on with increasing speed and achieved rapid momentum when it came to Mrs. Eager. To carry out her resolve was the work of an instant.

After being killed her body was carried along for 1,000 yards when it was caught in a frog of the track and thrown to one side. The husband sped away on his engine, little thinking of what the machinery under his feet had done.

### MAINTAINS HIS INNOCENCE

American Prisoner in Mexico Claims to Be a Victim of Conspiracy.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 31.—Americans throughout Mexico are watching with great interest the movements of the authorities in the case of Carlos A. Miller, an American citizen and resident of Cuajinicuilapa, state of Guerrero. He is in the Belmex prison, City of Mexico, charged with the murder of a Mexican engineer named Eduardo Zepeda, at Ometepec on October 6.

Miller claimed from the first that the officers at Ometepec and in his own town with the unpronounceable name had conspired to bring a murder charge against him and encompass his ruin and death if possible. He claims he knows the identity of the murderers, and offers, if released under guard, to furnish evidence of a wholesale conspiracy in the state of Guerrero not only to do away with him, but to defraud the government out of a large amount. Responsible people of the state forwarded to the government statements setting forth that Miller is all right, and is the innocent victim of

the seizure were all promoted in rank.

The Canton viceroy reported in another memorial the capture of two notorious pirate junks. In effecting the capture one military officer lost his life. A decree was issued on the 19th of November authorizing the execution of the captives and ordering the officials concerned in the capture to be promoted in rank and that the master of the military officer who had lost his life be referred to the board concerned for rewards and posthumous honors.

### THE SULTAN IS OBDRUATE.

Absolutely Refuses to Permit Further Interference.

Constantinople, Dec. 30.—The Russian ambassador on Saturday, acting in concert with representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Austria, had an audience with the sultan, Abdul Hamid, one of many such interviews within the past year, on the same subject, the better administration of affairs in the Turkish empire.

The Russian diplomat began by warning the sultan and the Turkish government that if the revenues ceded for payment of the Turkish debt were touched, European control of the finances of the empire would become inevitable. M. de Nellodoff, the Russian ambassador, further informed the sultan that the czar guaranteed his personal safety and engaged himself to maintain the sultan's supremacy in the event of severe measures being necessary upon the part of the powers. The sultan, however, remained obdurate, refusing to consent to any measure of control, financial or otherwise, by the powers.

The Russian ambassador said the condition of the Turkish empire placed the throne and the caliphate in imminent peril. Thereupon Abdul Hamid remarked impressively:

"I may be the last of the caliphs, but I will never become a second khan."

In addition to these warnings, M. de Nellodoff sent a note to the Turkish government and to the palace. The most significance is attached to it in diplomatic circles. He pointed out in precise terms the necessity for the sultan following the advice of the powers and acting in complete agreement with their plans for improving the situation, warning them once more that the sultan's refusal to do so involves the most disagreeable consequences.

The ambassadors of the powers will meet again to discuss the situation, and will reassemble in future twice a week until they complete their recommendations to the sultan and his advisers. The envoys acting together will henceforth maintain the strictest secrecy regarding their deliberations and the action taken or contemplated and will not even inform the envoys of other powers of the decisions reached.

These latest steps upon the part of the powers are once again reported to have produced a profound impression at Kiosk and in pursuance of the issuance of an amnesty decree the Armenian prisoners in Asia Minor and this city and vicinity are being released daily in batches of fifteen.

### JUSTICE IN CHINA.

Pirates and Counterfeitors are Promptly Beheaded.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—According to the latest advices from the Orient Li Ka Chuk, superintendent of the Canton police, on November 22, seized a large number of counterfeit coins. The chief coiner, Tsai Sang, and others, were arrested. An imperial decree from Peking commanded the immediate decapitation of the three named offenders, and enjoins the viceroy to deal with the others as he thinks necessary according to law, as a warning to the people. The officials who effected the seizure were all promoted in rank.

The Canton viceroy reported in another memorial the capture of two notorious pirate junks. In effecting the capture one military officer lost his life. A decree was issued on the 19th of November authorizing the execution of the captives and ordering the officials concerned in the capture to be promoted in rank and that the master of the military officer who had lost his life be referred to the board concerned for rewards and posthumous honors.

### An Immense Blast Fired.

San Diego, Dec. 30.—The Southern California Mountain Water Company fired the largest blast at Morena made in the history of the state. The body is to be disinterred in order to determine whether certain sums in a Chicago accident insurance company can be collected. Blakely having suffered a severe bicyclic accident some weeks prior to his death.

### A Big Granite Flooded.

Cambodia, Dec. 30.—The armored cruiser Russia, of 12,100 tons displacement, the largest vessel in the Russian navy, which ran on a sandbank in the beginning of November and has been frozen in ever since, has been freed after fifty-one days of incessant labor with steam turbines.

This matter was considered early by President-elect McKinley. Both of these bodies offered their services. Finally the Grays were selected. The Grays deliberaed, and then decided it would be the more fitting to invoke the services of the envoys to share the duty with them.

All the members of the envoys will be mounted on black horses, and they mount on making an effective display. The envoys will stop over on the way home to New York for one day and perhaps give a fancy ball.

### WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Co.'s Review of Trade.

The wheat market has settled down into one of a holiday character, and sentiment which frequently dominates prices is largely bearish. Most of the pit traders have become convinced that every time the price for May gets above \$60 it is a safe sale for a scalp, and when it breaks below that figure it is a purchase for \$50 to 10 advance.

The inability of the bulls to maintain the advantage with the news generally in their favor has made traders rather skeptical as to the prospects of a material advance before the close of the year, and there has been a general taking of profits by small holders, while a few of the large ones have either been out of the market entirely or are trading in small lines. The market is without leaders on either side, and the trade is drifting with the idea that there can be no permanent good in the market until after the holidays. The Argentine situation is as much of a puzzle as ever. Supplies in this country are decreasing, and the trade is irregular.

The Northwestern mills report a large Western demand, and Pilsbury announces that they will grind on an average of 40,000 barrels per day for some time.

The market is in a position where buying is more essential to steady prices than an abundance of bull news. The trade has tired of the combined reshuffle of the reports about small receipts, the probable scarcity of supplies, the dependence of European countries upon America, and the continued talk about wheat going to \$1. Something new is necessary to stimulate trade. The situation is all right, but more speculation is necessary. The short interest, although the largest in sixty days, is easily scared, and an advance of a few cents drives most of them in. The bulls on the whole have also grown more timid, and a decline of \$5 shakes out those who buy whenever the market gets strong. At present there is little in the market except a scalp.

### GENERAL MARKETS.

PORLAND, OR., Jan. 1, 1897.

Flour—Portland, Salem, Cascadia and Dayton, \$4.50; Benton county and White Lily, \$4.40; graham, \$3.75; superfine, \$2.50 per barrel.