

Resume of Events in the Northwest.

EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

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

The Golden Standard quartz mine, on old Hill, in Jackson county, was sold last week for \$125,000.

The officers of the Mathloma have engaged a crew in Corvallis to work on the dam that is to be put in at the Dog bar.

Estimates put on the wheat crop of Oregon are that there will be the neighborhood of 15,000,000 bushels harvested this season.

The wagon bridge across the Yamhill at Sheridan is unsafe, because of decayed piers. Travel over the bridge will be interrupted for two or three weeks.

The Falls City correspondent of the Independent says that hops in the precinct are looking well, haying has begun in earnest, and fall-sown crops will soon be ready for the binder.

Hon. C. V. Brock says that the crop of wheat in Sherman county is the best on record. A conservative estimate places the output to be harvested at 1,000,000 bushels, all of excellent quality.

There seems to be some doubt as to whether the fish hatchery at Mapleton will be operated this season or not, the plan being made by some in authority the results of last year do not justify the expense.

The barbers of The Dalles have entered into an agreement not to shave any of their customers on Sundays. The barber who violates the agreement will have to furnish his fellow shavers with a wine supper.

The grasshoppers that were devastating the fields around Olex, in Gilliam county, migrated to the west and south last week. The sun was partly obscured the greater part of the week, while they were flying over.

The illustrated commencement number of the University of Oregon Monthlies has been completed. Besides containing three orations and two poems recently delivered, and an unusual number of interesting articles, it also has 15 steel engravings of the literary societies, graduating class of '97, editorial staff, board of regents and President Chapman.

One of the leading wool buyers estimates that about 2,500,000 pounds of wool have changed hands at The Dalles this season. This week the purchases have been large. One clip of 60,000 pounds was sold at 12 cents. There are 8,000,000 pounds more to be sold, when all this is turned into money it will make a sum large enough to be felt in business.

Washington.

The potato bugs have put in their appearance for the first time in the Pacific country.

The Pacific soldiers' reunion began at Westport, Chehalis county, last week, and will continue five weeks longer.

John P. Fay has been elected president of the board of regents of the university of Washington, to succeed John W. Leary, deceased.

It is reported that the light-draft boat is to navigate the Okanogan river about completed at Wenatchee, and will make a trial trip in a few days.

As a result of the starting of the ice factory at Aberdeen, a schooner has been fitted out there to fish for halibut in Cape Flattery and further north.

Shipments of cattle over the Central Washington from Big Bend points continue, several trains being sent out each week, loaded with cattle for Eastern points.

Dayne, in Whatcom county, is soon to have a shingle mill, located where the old Stoops' sawmill stood a few years ago. The machinery for the mill has arrived.

A convention of superior court judges is being held in Seattle for the purpose of adopting a uniform system of rules and recommending needed changes in the practice act.

The Whitman Monument Association has submitted plans and specifications for the proposed Whitman monument last week, and the contract was awarded last week to a marble works in Walla Walla.

The salmon are said to be running well down the Sound, and the prospects are favorable for a good catch. The salmon are most plentiful just in Bellingham channel, gulf of Georgia. The ones running now are the best.

The first piano brought to the Pacific coast is attracting considerable attention at the Ferry museum, in Tacoma, where it has recently been placed. The instrument was brought to Oregon in 1847 or 1849, coming by way of Horn, and was the property of General McCarter, founder of the city of Tacoma. From Oregon City it was removed to Tacoma in 1869.

BRAVE DEED OF NAVAL ENSIGN

Son of Admiral Gherardi Performs a Gallant Rescue.

New York, July 26.—An accident on board the battle-ship Texas while lying at the Cobb dock in the navy yard came very nearly resulting fatally to two of the crew and also led to another act of bravery on the part of Ensign W. R. Gherardi, son of Rear Admiral Bancroft Gherardi.

The second whaleboat of the Texas was cast away shortly before 2 o'clock. Two men were in the boat, which was hoisted to the davits on the port side at the time. John Avapian, a landsman, and a sailor named Speers were getting ready to lower the boat, when the former, it is said, accidentally struck the detaching lever, releasing the boat, which fell about 20 feet to the water. The two men fell overboard and the boat filled with water. The shock was so great that the men were stunned and unable to keep afloat. The cry of "man overboard" was raised on the ship.

Ensign Gherardi rushed on deck, and, throwing off his coat, plunged over the ship's side. Three seamen followed him. Avapian, who sank almost instantly, was just down for a second when the gallant ensign rescued him. Speers was rescued by the other men. Avapian and Speers soon recovered from the shock.

The gallant rescue, which was witnessed by officers and men of the ship in the vicinity, elicited hearty cheers and praise for the rescuers. Ensign Gherardi, who is an exceedingly modest young officer, came in for a special share of commendation.

When attached to the Maine last February, in a storm off the Carolina coast, Ensign Gherardi saved the life of a drowning sailor under the most perilous circumstances.

ALASKAN TOWNS DESERTED.

Clondyke Rush Is Fast Depopulating the Coast Settlements.

San Francisco, July 26.—Among the arrivals from Alaska on the steamer Bertha was Dr. C. F. Dickinson, of Kodiak island, which lies just at the head of Cook inlet. He says the gold excitement all over the territory of Alaska is something unprecedented, and that people are flocking to the Clondyke in a way that threatens to depopulate many of the trading posts and coast towns.

"When I left Kodiak, two weeks ago," said Dr. Dickinson, "the people were leaving all that section and flocking in the direction of the Clondyke. In a way, the situation is appalling, for many of the industries are left practically without the means of operation. Mines that are paying handsomely at Cook inlet have been deserted.

"In my opinion there are just as good placer diggings to be found at Cook inlet as in the Clondyke region. There is not a foot of ground in all that country that does not contain gold in more or less appreciable quantities. The great trouble has been that people have not had either the courage or opportunity, I do not know which, to thoroughly prospect the country. I think that in another month the country will be practically deserted. There is room about Cook inlet for thousands of men, and there is certainly no better place in the world for a poor man."

BETTER WAIT TILL SPRING.

The Present a Bad Time to Start for the Clondyke.

New York, July 26.—The World says: The Clondyke fever has not abated a particle. The offices of the railroad companies and ticket agencies are visited by adventurous spirits eager to seek their fortune in the Alaskan gold fields. From information obtained by reporters, those seriously considering making the trip will do well to postpone their departure for some time. Under the most favorable circumstances the working days in the Yukon gold fields cannot exceed 100 in the year. For the other 265 days the earth is covered with snow, the ground is frozen, and the rivers closed with ice. Anybody starting from New York at this season would reach the Yukon river just about the beginning of the long Alaskan winter, and it would be far more comfortable to him to remain in the states and go to the new Eldorado at a more seasonable time.

He Claims the Clondyke.

New York, July 26.—W. J. Arkell, of the Arkell Weekly Company, of this city, has announced that he expects to claim the gold fields in the Clondyke district, by right of discovery, for the estate of E. J. Glave. Glave was the explorer who headed the expedition to Alaska in 1890-91, organized by W. J. Arkell, of Leslie's Weekly.

A Sudden Bustle at the Navy Yard.

New York, July 26.—Orders have been received at the Brooklyn navy-yard to have all the vessels that are undergoing repairs there ready for sea duty by the end of the week. The vessels are to join the ships of the North Atlantic squadron and the work of making the necessary repairs to them is being hurried.

Six Were Drowned.

Hamburg, July 26.—A boat containing 45 employes of the Hamburg engineering works capsized in the river Elbe today. Six were drowned.

INSTANTLY KILLED.

Seven People Meet a Frightful Death at New Haven.

New Haven, July 23.—An appalling accident occurred this morning in the shell-loading department of the Winchester Repeating Firearms Company's works. Without an instant's warning six human beings lost their lives by an explosion and another victim died soon afterward at the hospital. A score of others were more or less seriously injured but no further fatalities are anticipated.

More than 150 men and women are employed in the loading department and that more fatalities did not result from the explosion is miraculous. The hundreds of people who gathered about the gates immediately after the explosion witnessed a gruesome sight. Six dead bodies, blackened with powder, and frightfully mangled, almost beyond recognition, were lying on the floor. Near by two injured men were writhing in agony and all about were men running with their faces and arms bleeding from shot wounds, unmindful of the injuries, but trying to assist the injured and quell the confusion. Owing to the number of girls who were carried out in a fainting condition, it was believed that many of them were seriously injured, and there was a great feeling of relief when it was found that in most cases they were unharmed.

The explosion occurred in the loading room. Employed in this room were 150 hands, two-thirds of them girls and women. Nearly all the female hands were employed on the loading machines. The full complement of hands was at work in the room when the explosion took place. Forty feet of the side of the building was blown out, and fragments of human bodies were scattered in every direction. All available physicians, fire department, police, ambulance and hospital corps were speedily summoned.

Harrowing scenes were enacted as the vast throng congregated about the place. The victims who were alive were made as comfortable as possible and conveyed with all possible speed to their homes. Two bodies had been decapitated. Others had been partially torn asunder and still others had been dismembered. Edward Bardeoff died after being taken to the hospital, making the seventh victim of the explosion.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined. T. G. Bennett, president of the company, said:

"We have been running automatic loading machines for more than 20 years, and this is the first time any one has been injured. Since the adoption of these machines we have had no accidents in the use of black gunpowder." Bennett expressed the belief that through the carelessness of an operator or powder boy the machine that exploded had been overcharged.

A GEORGIA WATERMELON.

The President Receives a Mammoth Specimen of a Southern Favorite.

Washington, July 23.—President McKinley was the recipient today of a unique compliment in the shape of a large Georgia watermelon. Several members of the delegation in congress accompanied by several ladies, and W. H. Mitchell, of Atlanta, the Southern freight agent of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, made the presentation in the Blue room. The melon was about two and a half feet long, and measured six feet in circumference. It was packed in a golden hamper, wrapped in the American flag and entwined with white silk ribbon, on one end of which was the flag of the United States and on the other the arms of the state of Georgia.

Representative Livingston made the presentation speech. In doing so he referred to the old adage about the Greeks bearing gifts, and assured the president when opened no office-seeking enemy would emerge.

The president made a happy response, saying among other things that he was especially gratified for the assurance that it contained no office-seeker.

A SHOCKING STORY.

Poverty, Starvation and Death in an Arkansas City.

Fort Smith, Ark., July 23.—A shocking case of destitution came to light in this city yesterday. In an old shanty within the shadow of the United States jail, lying upon a pile of straw and covered with rags, was found Mrs. John Hauer, the widow of a once well-known German resident of this city, almost dead with malarial fever. In another corner lay two scantily clothed corpses. They were the bodies of Mrs. Hauer's children, one 6 months old, the other 4 years. The children had died from disease, exposure and starvation. In the hut were also found Mrs. Lordan, Mrs. Hauer's mother, and three living children, all of whom were fast yielding to the pangs of hunger. Mrs. Hauer was removed to a hospital, where she will die.

The Tariff Conference Report.

Washington, July 23.—The tariff conference report was taken up in the senate today after routine business was disposed of and the formal reading of the report proceeded. During the early hours the discussion was purely formal, most of the time being given to identifying the numbered amendments with the text of the senate bill.

DONE BY MASKED MEN.

Large Number of Nets and Traps in Baker's Bay Destroyed.

Astoria, Or., July 22.—News was brought to this city today that a great fleet of fishing boats had destroyed many nets in Baker's bay, last night and this morning. There were between 50 and 100 boats, in each of which were two or more men. The men were all masked, wearing handkerchiefs over their faces.

The fleet evidently congregated at the head of Sand Island last night, after having formulated plans. From there the boats proceeded to the bay, destroying all the traps that lay in their path. Whenever possible, the men sawed off the trap-poles. When this was impossible, they tore the nets to pieces. From the information at hand it appears that nearly 100 traps were destroyed. This morning the destruction was continued. No attempt was made to stop the work of the men.

The action of the men in this destruction of property is no doubt due to the fact that the price of fish has been reduced. Within the last few days the traps have been doing exceptionally well, and it is believed the plan for their destruction was formulated by vengeful men, although, of course, it cannot be definitely said that the marauders were fishermen owing to their masks.

The traps belonging to Samuel Elmore, McGowan & Sons and B. A. Seaborg received the attention of the men, Seaborg's property suffering most. A few private traps were molested. The men could be plainly seen from the shore, carrying on their work of destruction, but no attempt was made to stop them, as it was supposed they were heavily armed.

Complaint was made to Deputy United States Marshal Stuart, but he has taken no action as yet.

The affair has created great excitement. It is said the men have vowed to remove all the traps in the river, claiming that they are the cause of the reduction in the price of fish. The canners have taken no action as yet for the protection of their property, and will probably obtain permission to keep an armed force in the bay. It is understood the owners of the destroyed gear will offer \$1,000 reward or the apprehension of the offenders.

REACHED THE SENATE.

The Session Will End With the Disposal of the Tariff Bill.

Washington, July 22.—The tariff conference report was reported to the senate today, but little progress was made on it beyond the formal reading of about two-thirds of it. During the day Tillman openly threatened a filibuster until next December if cotton bagging and cotton ties were not restored to the free list, but the threat was regarded as somewhat facetious. The sugar amendments occasioned a long debate, during which Allison stated that the conference rates were lower than those of the senate, and largely a concession to the house.

Vest, Jones, Berry and White questioned this statement, urging that the sugar trust secured larger benefits from the conference schedule than from any previously offered. The lumber amendment also brought out animated criticism from Teller and Pettigrew.

Early in the day the senate passed a joint resolution authorizing and requesting the president to take all necessary steps for the release of the Competitor's prisoners from prison at Havana.

The general opinion is that the quorum of the senate will disappear very soon after the disposal of the tariff bill, but the determination of the supporters of the Harris Pacific railroad resolution to secure a vote upon it before final adjournment may delay that consummation for some days.

A Piute Murderer Killed in Arizona.

Kingman, Ariz., July 22.—Information received from Riville, Nev., at the mouth of the Virgin river, says that Mouse, the Piute murderer, was killed two days ago on Muddy creek in Lincoln county, Nevada, by a posse of pursuers.

Mouse is the Indian who killed Stearnes and Davis on the Colorado river last winter near the White hills. A reward of \$250 was offered for him, dead or alive, and a constant search has been made for four months. No trace, however, was struck till a week ago. He was then located in the Charleston mountains, north of Vanderbilt. Sheriff Butts wired William Miller, of Vanderbilt, to take trailers and go out. Miller found the trail and followed it to within 10 miles of Muddy settlement. The Indian trailers then turned back, being afraid of the Indians on the Muddy. Miller followed alone and finally ran down Mouse, who was shot five times before he gave up.

The Oakland Tidal Canal.

Oakland, Cal., July 22.—A memorial has been forwarded to congress by the people of Alameda asking that the Oakland tidal canal be completed and not abandoned. This canal was planned and half completed under Colonel G. C. Mendell, when he was chief of government engineers. When Colonel Sutter was appointed he withdrew Colonel Mendell's tidal canal plan, already partly completed. Citizens of Fruitvale and Alameda want it completed.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

There was much activity in the Chicago market during the past week. There was a temporary advance in July wheat of 5 cents per bushel, but the end of the week shows a tendency to sell out on the confident assertions that the present week will see a good beginning of the movement of new wheat to market.

There is no indication that the demands from the milling interests will be sufficient to head off any great quantity of it as the flour trade is apparently calling for lessened rather than increased production. It therefore remains with the farmer to say whether or not he will sell now or at some time in the future. The developments of the last few days lead the trade to believe that there will be the usual liberal marketing of wheat almost direct from the harvester. Looked at in the broad sense, however, the wheat market is in a strong position the world over, and the coming twelve months should see a higher price level than the last twelve. America should take a more than usually prominent part in the trade of the year, as the present crop promises to be not only the finest quality but relatively larger than that of any other country. The government figures on production issued July 10, are practically ignored by the trade. They indicate a crop nearly 40,000,000 bushels less than the most radical in the trade will estimate. The weak point in the report is the notoriously inaccurate figures on area. No one in the trade will seriously entertain the proposition that Oklahoma has but 200,000 acres in wheat this year.

The London Times of recent date says: "The prospect of the harvest in Eastern Europe are disquieting indeed. In Austria and Hungary and along the whole line of the Danube the harvest will be bad. Immense tracts of cornfields in Serbia, Bulgaria and Roumania have been laid under water by destructive floods, and what water has spared, rust has greatly injured. So bad, indeed, is the prospect that Austria and Hungary, instead of exporting wheat will have to import it. At any rate it is clear that the wheat supply from the Danube is likely to be exceedingly small, if not altogether wanting this season."

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 65c; Valley, 68c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.50@3.60; graham, \$3.25; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 38@40c; choice gray, 37@39c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$16@16.50; brewing, \$18@19 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$13.50 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$15.50. Hay—Timothy, \$11@14.; clover, \$11.50@13; California wheat, \$10.50@12; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton. Eggs—14@15c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 35@40c; fair to good, 30c; dairy, 25@30c per roll. Cheese—Oregon, 11½c; Young America, 12½c; California, 9@10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3@3.50 per dozen; broilers, \$1.50@3.50; geese, \$2@3.50; ducks, \$2.50@3 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbank, 35@45c per sack; new potatoes, 50c per sack. Onions—California, new, red, 90c@\$1; yellow, \$1.25 per cental. Hops—9½@10½c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 6c. Wool—Valley, 11@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@9c; mohair, 20c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 2¼@2½c; dressed mutton, 4½c; spring lambs, 5½c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4; light and feeders, \$2.50@3; dressed, \$3@4.25 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3; cows \$2.25; dressed beef, 4@5½c per pound. Veal—Large, 3; small, 4@4½c per pound.

Seattle Markets.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 18c; ranch, 10@12c. Cheese—Native Washington, 10@11c; California, 9½c. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 17@18c. Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10@11c; spring chickens, \$3@3.50; ducks, \$2.50@3.75. Wheat—Feed wheat, \$25 per ton. Oats—Choice, per ton, \$21. Corn—Whole, \$20; cracked, per ton, \$20; feed meal, \$20 per ton. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$19; whole, \$18.50. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5½c; mutton sheep, 6c; pork, 6½c; veal, small, 6. Fresh Fish—Halibut, 4½c; salmon, 4@5c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4; ling cod, 4@5; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2½@4c.

San Francisco Markets.

Wool—Choice foothill, 9@12c; San Joaquin, 6 months' 8@10c; do year's staple, 7@9c; mountain, 10@12c; Oregon, 10@13c per pound. Hops—8@12c per pound. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$18@21; California bran, \$14@14.50 per ton.