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 Open Day and Night. Good Service.
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ASTORIA, OREGON

FRESH AND CURED MEATS
 Wholesale and Retail
 Ships, Logging Camps and Mills supplied on short notice.
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HOTEL PORTLAND
 The Finest Hotel in the Northwest
PORTLAND, OREGON.



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Get hold of a Rock Island System folder, turn to the map, study it a minute or two, and you will get a fair idea of the immensity of the territory traversed by this Company's lines—Minnesota on the North; Texas on the South; Alabama on the East; Colorado on the West.

If you are going East, now or later, will you not kindly give me an opportunity of quoting rates and telling you what our through arrangements are? Three routes East—via Denver, Omaha and St. Paul.

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L. B. GORHAM, General Agent,
 140 Third St., Portland, Ore.

HETTON COAL

The finest Product of Australian mines for domestic use.

The best house coal ever brought to Astoria

400 TONS JUST ARRIVED

Will be sold at same old price while it lasts.

Free Delivery in the City.

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 Phone 1961 9th and Commercial Streets.

GOING EAST
 TRAVEL IS GENUINE PLEASURE ON
Baltimore & Ohio R. R.
ROYAL BLUE TRAINS
 —BETWEEN—
Chicago and New York
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Finest and Fastest series of trains in the world. Palatial Coaches, Pullman Buffet Parlor and Drawing Room Cars.

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Is operated by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

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WILL FIGHT BEEF TRUST

Stockmen of West Backed by National Association Will Establish Plant.

THE SITE AT KANSAS CITY

Project Will Be Carried to Successful Issue, Is Firm Determination of Stockmen—Option on Plant.

Denver, March 24.—The News today says:

That the stockmen of the west, backed by the powerful National Livestock Association, mean to carry out their project of establishing an independent packing plant to fight the beef trust, is evidenced by the option that has been taken upon the packing plant of Jacob Doid, of Kansas City. This option is now in the hands of Vice-President L. F. Wilson and Treasurer F. W. Plato, of the organization. All the papers incident thereto are also in the possession of these officers who are carefully making an examination of them with a view of formal acceptance at an early date by the organization, according to Secretary C. F. Martin, of the organization, just returned from the east. The option carries with it a lease of 10 years upon the property. The Doid packing house has been one of the strongest competitors of the trust. Its capacity is sufficient to kill 2,000 head of cattle, 4,000 hogs and as many sheep daily. According to Mr. Martin, the capacity is great enough to answer the business of the stockmen, who are pushing the project to a successful end.

WOMAN AS CATSPAW.

Lures Unwary Pedestrian to Lair of Armed Bandits.

In this day of modern developments women claim to be able to accomplish any feat possible for man, an evidence of the truth of which contention is the fact that a female highwayman is operating in Portland.

Masked men, rough usage, revolvers and a hundred and one other devices have been resorted to by thugs, but none has shown the cunningness and smoothness that this woman did in holding up a Chinaman Monday night.

Although the matter has been reported to the police the officers are completely mystified. Detective Hartman is working on a clew which was

KICK AND SCREAM

Baby's Awful Suffering from Eczema.

Could Not Hold Her. She Tore Her Face and Arms.

Cuticura Saved Her Life, So Mother Says.

"When my little girl was six months old, she had eczema. We had used cold creams and all kinds of remedies, but nothing did her any good, in fact, she kept getting worse. I used to wrap her hands up, and when I would dress her, I had to put her on the table for I could not hold her. She would kick and scream, and when she could, she would tear her face and arms almost to pieces. I used four boxes of Cuticura Ointment, two cakes of Cuticura Soap, and gave her the Cuticura Resolvent, and she was cured, and I see no traces of the humor left. I can truthfully say that they have saved her life, and any one suffering as she did, I should advise them to give Cuticura a fair trial." MRS. G. A. CONRAD, Lisbon, N. H., Feb. 7, 1898.

Five years later, viz., Feb. 23, 1903, Mrs. Conrad writes:

"It is with pleasure that I can inform you that the cure has been permanent as it is now six years since she was cured, and there has been no return of the disease, and I have advised a lot of friends to use the Cuticura Remedies in all diseases of the skin."

Instant relief and refreshing sleep for skin-tormented babies, and rest for tired, fretted mothers, in warm baths with Cuticura Soap and gentle anointings with Cuticura Ointment, the great skin cure and purser of emollients, to be followed in severe cases by mild doses of Cuticura Resolvent. This is the purest, sweetest, most speedy, permanent and economical treatment for torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, crusted and pimply skin and scalp humors, eczemas, rashes and irritations.

Sold throughout the world. Cuticura Resolvent, 50c. Cuticura Soap, 25c. Cuticura Ointment, 25c. Price per box of 100. Cuticura Soap, 25c. Cuticura Ointment, 25c. Cuticura Resolvent, 50c. Price per box of 100. Cuticura Soap, 25c. Cuticura Ointment, 25c. Cuticura Resolvent, 50c. Price per box of 100.

furnished him, and he has hope of bringing the criminals to justice.

Long Wing was the victim. He was on his way to the corner of Seventeenth and Burnside streets about 10 o'clock Monday evening. Just before he reached his destination he was stopped by a white woman. She said she wished to go down Davis street and asked the Celestial to accompany her as a guide, as she was afraid to be out alone at that hour of the night. Wing replied:

"Me Chinaman. Can't go with white woman. Police would think something wrong."

Regardless of his protest, the woman insisted that he go, and she promised him a small amount of money for his trouble. He accompanied her.

She led him along some of the darker streets. At last they had reached the Armory, and as they were passing one of the dark corners two men, both carrying revolvers, sprang upon the Chinese and robbed him of all he had, taking \$10 and a gold watch. While the two men were going through the clothes of the native of the orient the woman stood at ease and watched the proceedings, with the nerve of a professional thug. After the highwaymen had secured the Chinaman's money and watch they, with the woman, disappeared around the next corner in the dark.

The Chinaman was so badly frightened that he could not give an accurate description of his assailants, but the information furnished Detective Hartman will in all probability lead to their arrest.

The police expect to receive other reports of similar holdups. This is one of the best methods criminals could adopt, say the officers, as a man can be easily trapped and lured into danger by a woman without suspecting that anything was wrong.—Telegram.

IMPROVEMENT IS GENERAL.

Producers and Consumers in Iron Market Have Nothing to Complain of.

Cleveland, March 24.—The Iron Trade Review in this week's issue says:

Response of both producers and consumers to the improvement in the iron market that became plainly noticeable two weeks ago has been general. In pig iron, while the important contracts made in March were at prices ranging from \$9 to \$9.50 for Southern No. 2 foundry, there has been a fair business in the past week at \$9.75 and \$10 and the latter is now generally maintained. There is some improvement in the business of smelters of iron, slight as yet, but likely to go farther as the spring advances. Northern furnaces have generally followed the southern advance and \$12.50 at furnace for No. 2 is rare now, \$13 being maintained by most producers in the middle west, while in the Chicago market \$14 is quite generally asked for No. 2. Bessemer iron has advanced since the large buying of the past few weeks. For April and May \$13.35 at Valley furnace is now commonly asked and for April delivery \$13.50. The situation in steel is decidedly firmer and not only are schedule prices for billets being maintained but mills are strictly adhering to extras. An Indiana inquiry for thirty thousand tons of sheet bars has been up in the past week. Plates are in better demand and structural steel is more active. A four thousand ton order for Chicago also not a 2,000 ton contract for car shapes. The cotton tie business has been large in the past week and after about 25,000 tons had been placed an advance was made in the price from 75 cents to 80 cents a bundle. The hoop and band manufacturers have again established prices after a period of cutting. The revision in wages in the sheet and tin plate trades, on which a vote is now being taken in the union lodges, provides for a reduction to about 12 1/2 cents a box but the base has been reduced from \$4.25 per 100 pound box of coke plates to \$3.50, a concession to the Amalgamated Association, which at present price of tin plate, \$3.45, would increase wages two per cent. Proposed reduction in the sheet scale range from 10 to 20 per cent.

Insurance Business Crooked.

New York, March 24.—Resolutions have been adopted by the New York board of trade and transportation formulating a letter to Secretary Cortelyou of the department of commerce and labor asking that official to cause a thorough investigation into the present method of doing fire insurance business in the United States in an endeavor to correct alleged abuses. The belief is expressed in the letter to the secretary that methods now prevalent act in many instances to the detriment of the insured party.

HEAVY RAINS BLOCK ROADS

Mines in Southern Oregon Depend on Getting Supplies by Pack Animals Only.

AN OLD MINE IS TO REOPEN

Prospects for Season's Work Are Bright, Rich Ore Being Found and New Company Preparing to Operate.

Grant's Pass, Or., March 24.—On account of the freshets and washed-out roads, many of the outlying districts and camps have to receive their supplies by pack animals. Some of the mines are entirely cut off from supplies as a result of the recent heavy rains.

Colonel Doodrow, of San Francisco, who, in the interests of New York men, bonded the Ida mine, of Foot's creek district, for a consideration of \$16,000, is preparing to set a crew to work at an early date continuing the development of the property. The Ada has a three foot ledge and is opened up to a depth of 175 feet. It is the colonel's intention to have a mill installed and at work by the latter part of this summer.

A half-interest in the Sucker-creek hydraulic placers, of Sucker creek, has been sold by Jess Burnett, to F. Slade, for a cash consideration of \$5,000. The diggings of these placers are old channels, and carry values from the grass roots down. The bank lies from 15 to 50 feet in depth on the bed-rock. The gold is coarse and of the best quality. Mr. Slade will overhaul the mines and shape them to do a bigger business.

F. H. Osgood, the Seattle railroad and mining man, who bonded the Hammersley mine, of Jump-Off-Joe district, several weeks ago, has the property about cleared of water, and the mill and machinery cleaned up and ready for work. In a few more days men will be put in the stopes and the Hammersley will resume operations again, after an idleness of several years. Very little new timbering had to be done, as the old workings were found in good condition.

Manager C. E. Wickstrom, of the Lone Star hydraulic placers, brought in a large basket of nuggets from his properties this week. He secured over two pounds of yellow metal as a partial clean-up of these mines for this season, which is but a portion of that uncovered by one giant. Mr. Wickstrom states that on account of the abundance of water, they will move a far greater amount of gravel this season than ever before in the same length of time.

S. Chase, of Portland, who is developing the Oro Fino mine, of Jump-Off-Joe district, is meeting with such good success that he and his associates, all of whom are Portland men, have decided to install a cyanide plant this summer, and an order for the plant has already been placed. The Oro Fino was practically an abandoned mine when Mr. Chase took hold of it a little over a year ago. Like many other good southern Oregon properties it lacked the management of men with the enterprise and means to open it up—men who were not merely satisfied with gophering on the surface for pocket values. By intelligent and persistent work the lost ledge was located, and an immense body of high-grade quartz is now blocked out and is held in reserve for the reduction plant.

It is now an assured fact that the Waldo copper mines, of the Waldo district, southern Josephine county, will have a smelter. Albert I. Goodell, of Denver, has arrived here to erect and superintend the running of the plant. The company that will erect the smelter, while composed of a number of the same people as are interested in the Waldo Smelting & Mining Company and in the United States Reduction & Refining Company, is an entirely separate company, and will be known as the Takilma Smelting Company. The new plant will have a capacity of 100 tons daily and will cost about \$50,000. It is to be a standard-blast furnace and water jacketed, and is now being built by Harry Holthoff, of Cudahy, Wis., according to contract it will be placed aboard the cars by May 1, and will be in operation by July. It will be located near Takilma, the mining camp at the mines of the Waldo Smelting & Mining Company, and will do custom work as well as treat the ores of the mines of the Waldo Smelting Company.

Other new plants that are assured southern Oregon mines this summer

and which are all practically under construction or installation at the present time, are: A 100-ton smelter for the Alameda mine, of the Alameda Mining Company, Galice district; a 50-ton smelter for the Copper Eagle mine, of the Copper Eagle Mining Company, Galice district; 20 additional stamps for the Granite Hill mines of the American Gold Fields Company, Louse creek district; a cyanide plant for the Oro Fino mine, of the Oro Fino Mining Company, Jump-Off-Joe district; a five stamp mill and plant for the Millionaire mine, Gold Hill district, and 10 additional stamps for the Braden mine, of Dr. C. R. Ray, of the Gold Hill district. Taking these many improvements into consideration, it can be easily surmised that the coming summer will be a notable as well as a very busy one in the quartz mines of the southern Oregon mining district.

GROWING IN POPULARITY.

Dining Cars Carry the Best in Market And Are Greatly Appreciated.

"A modern dining-car is one of the most perfect works of the carbuilder," said Superintendent Fryer, of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company's dining car service to a Portland newspaper man. "It is astonishing to travelers not familiar with the Pacific coast that we are serving fresh tomatoes, radishes, lettuce, fresh green peas and all of the vegetables that are not found farther east until from two or four months later. The dining cars are designed to provide means for transporting, in the best possible condition, all classes of edibles found on the bill of first-class hotels and testimonials of many pleased patrons bear me out in the statement that our menu is of greater variety than that of many dining-rooms rated as high-class and not on wheels."

Superintendent Fryer has general supervision of the department that serves meals to travelers as they speed along the Columbia river, or through the passes of the Blue mountains. From his headquarters, room 51, Union depot, is directed the purchase and distribution of all supplies, which embrace sources of supply from Shoal-water bay and Toke Point, where oysters are procured fresh daily, to dairies along the system from which pure jersey cream is obtained. Markets of Portland are ransacked for the choicest of meats, relishes and sweets that are commanded by the public taste.

A dining-car is a maze of mysterious cubby holes and cleverly concealed refrigerating compartments, china closets and silver repositories. In its designing there is no place as large as a man's hat that has not been utilized to some good purpose. Underneath the long central section of the body of the car are built "cellars," that are large cold storage compartments in which the larger stock of perishable stuff is kept. In other sections is stored such light wines and beverages as are served in connection with the bill of fare.

As service is a la carte it is impossible for the traveler to suit the repast to the state of individual finance. A good breakfast can be had for 40 cents, but it is not unusual for travelers to settle checks for \$1.50 and sometimes more. The general patronage accorded dining-cars by the public is steadily increasing, and whereas a few years ago the majority of travelers considered its precincts sacred for exploration, scores are now served by each regular train and lunch baskets are becoming less popular than formerly. It is not necessary to hasten the dispatch of a meal as in the days of the 20-minute stop for meals at a station, and the appetite may be appeased leisurely, though at the rate of perhaps 40 miles an hour of travel.

TRAGEDY AVERTED.

"Just in the nick of time our little boy was saved," writes Mrs. W. Watkins, of Pleasant City, Ohio. "Pneumonia had played sad havoc with him and a terrible cough set in besides. Doctors treated him, but he grew worse every day. At length we tried Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and our darling was saved. He's now sound and well." Everybody ought to know, it's the only sure cure for Coughs, Colds and all Lung diseases. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

U. S. Custom House, Astoria, Oregon, March 19, 1904. Sealed proposals will be received at this building until 2 o'clock p. m. Wednesday, March 30, 1904, for furnishing fuel, lights, water, miscellaneous supplies, washing towels, hauling ashes, and sprinkling streets for this building during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, or such portion of the year as may be deemed advisable. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved by the Treasury Department.

W. L. BOBB, Custodian.