

THE GRANT COUNTY NEWS.

November 6, 1890.

The annual report of Groff, commissioner of the general land office, shows the number of agricultural patents issued during the fiscal year ending June 30, was 115,237, embracing 18,759,520 acres, as against 70,141 issued in 1889, with an aggregate area of 11,220,590.

The annual report of the Court of Claims shows the aggregate number of suits brought against the government and pending is about 14,000, and that the number of war claims now pending is about 8,000 involving, it is estimated, an aggregate of \$400,000,000.

Oregon gets \$20,000 with which to survey lands in this State. People who live in unsurveyed localities should lose no time in making their wants known to the Surveyor General at Portland. Get up petitions to the U. S. Surveyor General and ply the office with letters addressed to him at Portland, Oregon.

The Chambers of commerce of Montreal, Canada, have decided to formally present to the government the advisability of placing a duty of five cents per dozen on American eggs in retaliation for the McKinley import duty. Last season there were shipped to Canada 700,000 dozen eggs from the United States.

The following summaries were made from the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction: Whole numbers of organized districts, 1,033; persons of school age, 39,513; teachers employed, 2,566; school houses, 1,469; value of school property, \$1,769,150; 41; private school, 125. In 1880 there were 1,067 school districts and the school population was 59,615.

A storm brewed in Nebraska and began to move East. In three days it reached the Atlantic coast in New Jersey, and four days from its origin on the great grassy prairie of Nebraska, it was raising havoc among the ships off the Atlantic coast. The story of this storm from prairie to sea reads like the narrative of the victorious march of a conquering and merciless army.

A geological engineer of the Rock Island Railway, has been for some months past in the Indian Territory making a geological survey of the country to be traversed by the Rock Island's extension. He said an alarming feeling of discontent exists among the Indians of the Territory, with respect to the occupation of their lands by the whites. For months past there has been passing among the tribes various tokens and signs that mean discontent and secret plotting. He says: "There appears to me a feeling in that section which should not be overlooked. I believe that their willingness to part with their lands has been dictated by a desire to purchase accoutrements of war with the money received from the sale of their reservations."

Judge Silent, chairman of the Fremont relief committee of California, says that, despite the passage of the pension bill in aid of Mrs. Fremont, the committee intends to raise at least \$25,000. In the event of the death of Mrs. Fremont, now in poor health at the age of sixty-eight years, Miss Elizabeth Benton Fremont would be left in a practically destitute condition. Commenting on this the Weiser Leader sensibly remarks: Yes, and we believe it is really too bad for any one to be left in a practically destitute condition, but we don't know as this condition is any worse in Miss Fremont's case than it is for any one else. With the advantages the young lady must have had in her early life, she certainly ought to have been able to have prepared herself for something by which, with a reasonable effort on her part, she could earn an honest living instead of being a drudge on society, or, in other words, an honorable beggar. We believe that while there are old soldiers, crippled, maimed and broken down from exposure in the army, left destitute, it is in bad taste to agitate the pensioning of the children and grandchildren of generals, and especially of generals that never had any fighting record any way.

EFFECT OF LIGHTNING.

Numerous Deaths Occurring in All Parts of the World.

Cautions and Appalling Freaks of This Sudden and Unexpected Agent of Destruction. A Physician's Report of a Philadelphia Woman's Case.

The majority of deaths from lightning occurs in the level, open country, trees, villages and thickly built-up towns and cities, by their projections into the air, serving as conductors, and thereby protecting the inhabitants from direct stroke. The loss of life annually throughout the world is very great. In European Russia from 1870 to 1877 no less than 2,579 persons were killed by this cause. In Austria during the same time 1,109 persons were likewise killed. In Prussia it is reported that seventy persons are annually killed. Ten thousand persons are reported as having been struck during a period of nine-and-twenty years, with 2,232 deaths in France, while in the United States during 1875 alone 202 deaths from lightning were recorded.

The effects of lightning stroke are most interesting, curious and appalling. The general symptoms are usually of shock. There is often unconsciousness, sometimes coma, lasting from a few hours to even days, partial or complete loss of sight or hearing, associated with impairment of the other senses. The tissues may be burned superficially or deeply, the bones fractured and portions of the limbs torn off entirely. The tracks of lightning on the surface of the body may have a fancied resemblance to the branches of a tree, the main stems from which the branches lead off arising at any portion of the body. The skin in these tracks may be simply scarlet in color, slightly swelled or blistered, the branches tapering off until no larger than the scratch of a pin. They may pass in all directions from the place first struck or skip about from one part to another. This is due to the conduction of the current by the clothing, which if wet acts as an excellent conductor.

For the purpose of illustrating these effects the following report of a case is taken from the Philadelphia Medical News, reported by a physician who was on the spot at the time the accident occurred, Dr. J. R. Page:

The current struck the chimney of the house and passed down the studding near the window to an iron hook on which was suspended a chain and a bird cage, passed from this to the head of the lady, sitting just inside the window, and beneath the cage, above the left eye, midway between the eyebrow and hair, which was apparently the part nearest the corner of the bird cage, passed along in front of the ear, then to the central line of the chest, descending by the stocking support, which was attached to the corselet, thence to the top of the stockings, leaving marks upon both limbs, but more especially upon the left, on the back of which, just above the knee joint, was a burn about the size of one's hand. It had the appearance of an ordinary burn, and was only superficial. No trace of the current could be detected again until the foot was reached, from which it passed off by the joint of the greater toe, leaving a place about two inches in diameter in the stocking and slipper, burns having the slightest mark upon them. With the exception of the central spot on the posterior part of the left leg, and one or two small burns on the left and right leg, congealed blood stains marked the course of the electricity in its passage over the body.

Her condition was found to be as follows: Completely unconscious; mouth and eyes relaxed; left eye closed, right eye open; face purple; pulse at wrist imperceptible; neither respiration nor respiratory sounds to be heard. At once artificial breathing was resorted to, and in from two to three minutes the first sign of life appeared in a movement of the left leg. The blue color faded from the face and the pulse was felt at the wrist. Soon a new train of symptoms set in. There was difficult respiration. The mucous and saliva, which were very abundant, had gravitated back and could easily be swallowed because of complete paralysis of the pharynx, etc. There was, in fact, paralysis of almost all the muscles of the uppermost parts of the body, including the arms. The symptoms were those exhibited by an animal who is being asphyxiated; violent muscular contractions, difficulty and forced respiration, etc. Under continued efforts consciousness returned in three quarters of an hour. A period of four weeks elapsed before all the sensor and her general health were restored and all paralysis had disappeared.

In this, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, do we see the effect of lightning in a pronounced degree, and claim as we do that this person will have died from the effects if the physician had not been present to at once resort to artificial or forced respiration and wrap the body to maintain the heat necessary for life?

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Joseph E. Masterson.

Dated this 29th day of October, 1890.

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