

**The Dalles Daily Chronicle.**

The Only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

MONDAY - - JANUARY 3, 1898

**A CHEERING OUTLOOK.**

Many more good things can be said of 1897 than was possible of its predecessor. The contrast between the year just closing and the one preceding is a most cheering one. Nature has bestowed a bountiful harvest, and the world is willing to pay a good price for it. Mortgages have been lifted, debts discharged and more labor given employment. No one will deny that prosperity is upon us. It may not have come to all; there are some individuals, perhaps, who feel the pinch of poverty now as much as ever, but it is not in the nature of things that all should be blessed alike.

The condition which confronts Eastern Oregon is full of hope. The price of wheat remains at a satisfactory figure, while the wool market is steadily strengthening. The immense immigration which will reach the Pacific coast in the spring will give a still greater impetus to business and assist the permanent material interests of the country.

Let us profit by the past and guard better for the future. Let us remember that economy is necessary in all things, and "to him that hath much shall be given." We need no return of "boom times," no speculative conditions whereby fortunes are made in a day and lost almost as quickly. We have just recovered from one sickness of this sort, and are in no mood to contract the disease again. A healthy business life is what the nation needs, and it is to this that every indication points.

**THE BEST EVIDENCE.**

Where are the patriots who but a little over a year ago loudly declared that the country would sink to ruin if McKinley were elected? If there be any still inclined to the same forebodings, it is time they are making their prophecies good. We fear the task is too much for them. In this connection if the calamity howlers will read the following excerpt from Dun and Bradstreet reports, their wailings may be silenced:

"The new year opens with conditions radically different from those which prevailed a year ago. Great financial distrust existed then, but has passed away. After a whole year of entire freedom from disturbance or alarm, in which the country has paid foreign indebtedness, paid millions for stocks sent from abroad, and accumulated credits against other credits represented by merchandise balances, more than \$420,000,000 in its favor for the past four months, with deferred exchanges for more than \$20,000,000 held by New York banks alone, while the great industries have been pushing their way into foreign markets with unprecedented success, the monetary situation is no longer a matter of anxiety. More than half a million men in a few states, according to official reports, are employed now who were idle a year ago, and the general advance in wages of those employed has gone far to restore the rates prevailing before the panic. The volume of business through clearing houses for the week, 14.2 per cent larger than in 1892, has for the month been 0.3 per cent larger than in that year. In many industries and branches of business, the latter months of the year have surpassed all records."

Not only to itself has the Oregonian done great credit by its mammoth New Year's edition, but the whole Northwest appears in an enviable light by means of this production. The resume of the resources which Oregon and Washington possess is presented in a manner that cannot fail of being productive of benefit to every locality mentioned. Few people, even among those who were in daily contact with the evidence of it, had such an idea of the wonderful section in which we are living as can be gained from reading the descriptive articles in this excellent edition. The articles are judiciously written, in a calm, truthful manner, and details are set forth admirably. This edition is free from exaggeration, and is in every way deserving of praise. The Oregonian has given the Northwest a good start for a prosperous career in 1898.

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The world moves quickly. A coalition between Japan and China is mentioned as more than a possibility. It will be a case of the lion and the lamb over again.

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**PEARL FISHING.**

How It is Managed by the Proprietors of the Concession.

The agent of the English proprietors of the concession granted by the Mexican republic for a monopoly of pearl fishing in the Gulf of California recently arrived in San Francisco and gave some interesting details of the present methods employed in their industry, which has continued ever since the occupation of the country in the time of Cortez.

The whole coast of the Gulf of California abounds in pearls, and the concessions control the entire territory. Until within the last few years native divers were employed, and the depth to which they could descend did not exceed 35 feet.

With the introduction of diving apparatus the limit of depth was increased to 30 fathoms. The best divers could formerly remain under water not to exceed two minutes. A modern diver thinks nothing of a two-hour stop in water 100 feet in depth, though at greater depths the stay is necessarily shortened on account of the enormous pressure of the superincumbent water. A diver when upon the floor of the ocean looks about for the oyster, which he tears from the object to which it is attached, and places it in a small bag hanging to a rope, which is hauled into the boat on a given signal. Sometimes the number of oysters secured is large, at other times only a few are caught.

The diver does not confine himself to the pearl oyster alone, but if he sees a rare specimen of coral or a new species of shell he places it in his bag and sends it to the surface, where it becomes the property of the concession and the sources of its large income.

Last year the value of the pearls harvested in Lower California was alone \$350,000. In addition, 5,000 tons of shells were exported, which were valued at \$1,250,000 more. Pearl fishing is the entire occupation of the natives, and La Paz, the headquarters, a city of the peninsula, with about 2,000 inhabitants, is solely dependent upon the industry. The business is one of chance, and the pursuit is a fascinating one to the natives, who are born gamblers.

Every oyster does not contain its pearl, and only at intervals, and rare ones at that, is a really valuable pearl discovered. The largest one ever found was about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and was sold in Paris to the emperor of Austria for \$10,000. Many black pearls are found in Lower California, and are valued higher than the pure white. The large majority are seed pearls, and are only of moderate value.—San Francisco Call.

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