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Alexander Dept. Store

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NEWS OF MILTON

CHILDREN NEVER CATCH SMALLPOX IN SCHOOL.

News of Christmas—Personal Notes
—Nonsense of Parents in Keeping Children Out of School.

Milton, Dec. 25.—One would be led to believe that home rule would soon rule the families in this vicinity, if the number of births has anything to do with it.

The shoe-round dance was in force here last fall, but since the frosts have been freezing into coats of ice all over everything it is called half-soled dancing, and costs about as much as the former.

One of the prettiest little home Christmas trees in Milton last night was in the parlors of Tot Rogers. It was given by Mesdames Rogers, D. J. Kirk and James Roman for their families and children.

George Cowi shot nine ducks last Tuesday at two shots.

Mosgrove & Co. have postponed giving the pony and cart away until after the holidays.

Owing to the change of time in the freight leaving here, quite a number who intended to go to Pendleton remained in Milton another day.

Those overgrown boys, or would-be men that tried to break up the dance at Freewater Tuesday night, won't be likely to try it again soon. Marshal Lumbard intends to put down some of the rowdiness if he has to resort to the use of billies and bull dogs.

It's strange that some people act as they do, when if they would stop for a minute and think they could see different. Just as quick as a case of some contagious disease makes its appearance in a neighborhood a half dozen families want to stop school, and raise a great big howl if it isn't done, and keep their dear little one out; but if there is a dance, a party or a Christmas tree or any thing else under the sun going on, parents and all the kids are there. Not only there, but all over the country and to all the towns nearby where all these diseases are, and where 95 per cent are caught. We see children every day standing in front of a quarantined house talking to some of its inmates that won't go to school for fear of smallpox or scarlet fever.

What foolishness. We have yet to hear of a child in Oregon, Washington or any other state that ever caught either of these diseases in a schoolhouse, and don't believe that anyone else ever has. Some of the schools in this section have dropped off 50 per cent within the last month, ruining their schools and having smallpox just the same. Wake up and send to school; get the smallpox and die, or an education and live, for with an education you can live or die intelligently, peacefully and contentedly, but without you might die but you could not be a contented citizen.

Harry Spence, the gentleman who

had his chaps and saddle stolen at Freewater a few weeks ago, has bought a brand new one from Campbell Brothers, of Heppner. He says it is loaded and the man who touches it will die on the spot.

Dr. J. L. Hill and wife of Freewater, will spend Christmas in Pendleton.

COST OF OPERATING RAILWAYS.

Short Summary of Expenses at One Umatilla County Station.

People often complain of the high freight and passenger rates charged by railroads. They do not think of the expenses attached to the operation of a railroad.

There is a helper station on the O. R. & N. at Kamela which is a fair illustration of the enormous cost of carrying on the traffic of a large system of railroad.

These helper engines do not haul trains over the road. They do not earn a direct and specified amount by hauling a train from one end of the road to the other, but are an extra expense attached to the hauling of regular trains. For one month the actual expenses of these three helping engines may be footed up as follows:

Salaries of six engineers at \$125 \$ 810
Salaries of six firemen at \$81 .. 486
Salaries of two wipers at \$50 .. 100
Salary of one operator at \$60 .. 60
1000 tons of coal at \$5 per ton (normally) .. 5,000
Labor, handling coal .. 100
Repairs (under normal conditions) .. 100
Oil .. 100

Total .. \$6,756

This is not an expense of one month in the year, but a continual drain, year in, year out.

The public is not fully informed as to the enormous cost of operating railroads. The freight and passenger rates seem rather inadequate to some of the vast expenditures that are made. A new locomotive costs from \$5000 to \$8000 and more according to make. Wrecks constitute a large part of the expenses, and are a clean loss to the company. From the track department to the books of the president's office a railway system is a most wonderful, complex business. It would be interesting reading for the public to learn something of the statistical facts of such operation.

MANY GIFTS FOR THE POOR.

Christmas Takes on a New Significance in Walla Walla—Well Worthy of Emulation.

Walla Walla, Dec. 26.—"It is more blessed to give than to receive," seemed to be the moving spirit and high ideal of the Christmas services in this city. While no less demonstrative and general than in past years, the services seemed to take on a new significance, and one well worthy emulation everywhere. A number of trees were given and exercises held at the various churches and societies, all apparently with one idea prominently pointing a moral. The children of the city were asked to bring to the trees presents for the poor, consisting of money, food or clothing, and at each place a large amount of provisions and some money was secured.

It took several dray-loads yesterday to carry all that was secured to a central place for distribution. In some of the churches no presents were allowed on the trees, but each child was given nuts and candy in abundance. The presents were piled at the base of the tree, and later removed for the benefit of the 40 or 50 families now in the city in straightened circumstances.

Yesterday, through the effort on the part of the churches, and the Salvation Army, each of the poor families were given enough provision to last nearly a month. Mrs. Kuba, of the Salvation Army, struck upon an idea of placing an iron pot on a tripod at a street crossing, by which she stood for two days in the cold and storm. Upon a placard was a call to the merciful to contribute to a fund to "keep the pot boiling," and nearly \$50 in silver found its way into the fund to relieve distress in this way.

The weather was damp and chilly, and a fog hung over the city throughout the day. The streets were not muddy, but the snow melted slightly and the roads were too sloppy for sleighs and the snow made the wagon seem out of place. Yesterday was one of the most quiet days seen in the city in many years. Nearly every business house save saloons closed all day.

Fenton-Yox.
Walla Walla, Dec. 26.—Ralph Fenton, of Goldendale, and Miss Ella Yox, of this city, were married at the home of Councilman J. Z. Smith, Wednesday evening, a few friends witnessing the ceremony. After the wedding the bride and groom left for California, where they will spend a brief honeymoon and return to Goldendale for permanent residence.

AT THE FRAZER.
"Down by the Sea," the Attraction at the Theater Tuesday, December 2.

Manager James B. Welch, of the Frazer opera house, is to be congratulated upon securing for his patrons the engagement of such a powerful play and company as "Down by the Sea," which will be seen here Tuesday, December 30. "Down by the Sea" is a comedy drama, and although it has been running in England for the past eight years, it only received its initial production in America last season at Boston, where it played to

the largest week's business in the history of the Boston theater. The story is indeed beautiful and the incidents so naturally conceived that at no time does the action drag or the interest wane. The play occupies the position in American stage literature with such attractions as "Shore Acres," and "Way Down East." It is bright and clean, not overdrawn and has a distinct vein of comedy which brightens it wonderfully. The characters are well balanced and each actor in his or her own way appeals especially to the audience. Theatergoers are assured of a strictly first-class production. This is the same company which played "Tennessee," produced here last season. Seats on sale at Frazer's book store.

"RICHARD CARVEL"
At Frazer Opera House by the Original Company, January 2.

Manager J. B. Welch, of the Frazer opera house, with pleasure announces that he has succeeded in securing for Friday, January 2, Mr. Andrew Robson and his strong supporting company in the dramatization of Winston Churchill's beautiful story, "Richard Carvel." This attraction should be greeted by standing room only, as the original cast will appear here, coming direct from the Marquand Grand, at Portland.

The bodies of Frank Bradshaw and Frank Payne, of Meadows, Idaho, who were buried in a snow slide at the Crown mine on December 19, have been recovered. Payne was a former resident of Yakima, Wash.

James Nolan, an inmate of the Walla Walla penitentiary, died Tuesday of heart failure.

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The Largest of Its Kind.

A tortoise whose estimated age is 400 years and known weight is 600 pounds, making it the largest one ever reported, has crossed the United States on a limited train en route from the Galapagos islands to the private zoological garden of the Hon. Walter Rothschild in London. In civilization cabbages are given him in lieu of the cacti of his native heath.

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