

THE WEST.

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FLORENCE, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

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Editor and Proprietor.

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TO BUILD THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

TERMINAL LEADER:

The senate committee on the Nicaragua canal has agreed on a bill which provides for the work being done by the government itself, instead of aiding any company by a guarantee of bonds or otherwise.

It now appears to be possible, from all the reports made, that the canal can be constructed at a cost of about one hundred million dollars. With money in plenty at three per cent, which would make an annual interest charge of three million dollars, there is little doubt that the investment would prove a profitable one to the people of the United States in the increased commerce that would be developed, let alone its value to the government as an adjunct to our navy.

It is not at all impossible that the canal will at an early day pay, over and above cost of maintenance and operation, the interest charges, but this would be a secondary consideration in comparison with the benefits that would accrue to the commercial interests of the country.

If the government will take hold of this great project and push it to completion it will have the approval of the people of the country, who will be materially benefited by the work.

CAPACITY OF BOXES.

A box four inches by four inches square, and four and one-fifth inches deep will contain one quart.

A box twenty-four inches long by sixteen inches wide and twenty-eight inches deep will contain a barrel (three bushels.)

A box seven inches by four inches square and four and four-fifths inches deep will contain half gallon.

A box eight inches by eight inches square and four and one-fifth inches deep will contain one gallon.

A box eight inches by eight and two-fifths inches square and eight inches deep will contain one peck.

A box twenty-four inches long by sixteen inches wide and fourteen inches deep will contain a half barrel.

A box sixteen inches by eight and two-fifths inches wide and eight inches deep will contain half bushel.

A box sixteen inches square and eight and two-fifths inches deep will contain one bushel.

THERE SEEMS to be an epidemic of dead fish in the lakes and rivers in different parts of the country. It is unaccountable. The fish are of all kinds—catfish, trout, etc. Some theories are original, others plausible. The catfish are supposed to fight among themselves and the dead fish are the result, while some think the bass kill the fish. Three persons in West Virginia, residing on the Blue Stone River, died from drinking the water where the fish have been dying in large quantities. Every year brings fatalities of this kind, and yet it is still unexplained. The U S Fish Commission should investigate it.

FISHING GAZETTE.

SAM J SMITH, of Tillamook, is endeavoring to create a sentiment in favor of a legislative enactment offering a bounty of 20 or 25 cents for the scalps of fish ducks. Mr. Smith says these ducks are not ornamental or edible. They are very destructive to fish in the streams which they frequent. Smith having a little spare time, now that the campaign is over, has gone to the trouble to figure that each female duck will raise a brood of twelve in a year; and that a brood will eat in a year 259,875,000 small fish, principally minnows, which the food fishes like and salmon fry, which, at a large annual expense, are raised at the hatcheries. Fish ducks are easily distinguishable from ducks which sportsmen hunt. In view of their destructiveness, Mr. Smith's proposition to exterminate them has merit.

WAR NEWS.

The Spanish Fleet Destroyed. A Great Victory by Sampson.

The American troopships City of Sydney, City of Peking and Australia conveyed by the Charleston arrived at Cavite June 30th. They took Ladrones islands on the way and established military posts on them. The Spanish governor and other officials were captured and taken to Cavite.

Dispatches of the 5th say Admiral Causara's fleet has entered the Suez canal.

Sampson wires that he has destroyed the entire Cervera fleet at Santiago and taken the Spanish admiral and thirteen hundred marine prisoners. Not a single Spanish ship escaped. Cervera tried to break out of the harbor at 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning. Sampson lost one man killed and three wounded.

Sampson's report says the Infanta Marie Teresa, Oquendo and Viscaya were forced ashore, burned and blown up within Santiago. Farore and Pluton destroyed within four miles of port. Cristobal Colon was the last ship captured. Ran ashore six miles west of Santiago. Delay in bombardment at request of foreign consul.

Washington, July 4.—At 11:55 tonight the navy department posted the appended translation of a cipher cablegram from Commodore Watson. It is similar to that received today from Sampson, but contains the additional information the 350 Spaniards were killed or drowned, 163 wounded and 1,630 captured.

Washington, July 5.—It is given out here today that there will be no bombardment of Santiago today. Admiral Sampson and General Shafter will probably attack the city at the same time when their plans are completed.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Sunday School 10 A. M. Preaching 11 A. M. and at Point Terrace at 3 P. M. at Mapleton 8 P. M. Special music for the morning service. I G Knotts Pastor.

THE FRENCH EXPOSITION.

BY Chronicle:

Congress is displaying better sense in the matter of the appropriation for the French exposition than it promised to do earlier in the season. At one time there was a disposition to treat seriously unofficial expressions of French sympathy for Spain, and to disregard the fact that the government of France has taken pains to preserve neutrality. The fact was overlooked that there was a curious eagerness displayed by the English newspapers to exaggerate the intensity of the pro-Spanish sentiment in France. This should have been sufficient in itself to induce congress to proceed with caution, for the obvious purpose was to promote ill feeling in the United States against the people of France, and those of the other Continental powers, in order to create a sentiment in favor of the mooted alliance of this country and Great Britain.

There is no doubt that the failure of the United States to provide for representation at the Paris Exposition would have played into the hands of those who think that our interests can be served by making enemies instead of friends, but luckily congress is not in the mood to do foolish things; on the contrary, it seems bent on pursuing a course which will retain for us the advantage of being a desired friend rather than a hated enemy. Had we been led into the folly of attempting to make the reprisals upon the French, because some of their newspapers were incautious enough to proceed on the assumption that it is proper and natural for people of the same race to sympathize with each other, we might have been plunged into serious difficulties. Congress has however, kept in mind the fact that American papers have been silly enough to advance the same kind of arguments in favor of an alliance of English-speaking people, and has evidently concluded that the best antidote for the folly is a business-like recognition of the fact that the French are going to hold a great world's fair, at which we ought to be represented for business and political reasons. Not least among the latter is the opportunity which the announcement of our intention to participate in the French fair presents to exhibit to the rest of the world in a practical way that the twaddle about the United States having an understanding with England and that we are ready to array ourselves with the latter against Continental Europe, is absolutely undeserving of consideration.

MINERALS AND MINES IN SOUTHERN OREGON.

American Helweg News:

Talk about your Klondike! the southern part of the state of Oregon, as a field for mining enterprises is unexcelled in the world. All precious, and most of the useful metals are found there in such abundance, and so easy of access as to render their production a profitable occupation for thousands of men and millions of dollars of capital. You may board the trains of the Southern Pacific Railroad at Portland, and before reaching Oregon's southern boundary line, all within 18 hours' ride of the city of Portland, you meet cities of cosmopolitan aspect, schools and churches all along the road which brings you through one of the richest mineral belts on the American continent, and with a climate where the laborer or miner can work every day throughout the year, and with water and timber in abundance.

The enchantment most appertaining to Alaska, where thousands of eager men come with unlimited capital, are rushing to the unknown hardships, but it matters little where or when these stampedes occur, if the same amount of energy and capital could be placed into the Southern Oregon fields or mountains, they would be followed by the development of permanent mining camps which would continue to produce the precious metal in paying quantities. Responsive not to the feverish and excited efforts of the stamper, but to the capital, skill, experience and business capacity of those who come after him.

Such is the case in the mining districts of Southern Oregon, where mining properties are being worked, or are but partially developed or wholly undeveloped that equal in value and promise of reward to capital, anything that could possibly be expected in any new region, and which allure the prospector by enchantments of distance.

The deposits of precious metal are so widely spread in various richness that it will be impossible in any reasonable limits to notice all the various localities where small mines are worked. The Southern Oregon District, properly speaking, embraces the five counties, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Jackson and Josephine, where the Pacific Coast Gold Mining, Milling & Developing Company, are at work developing, and from reports received from that company's headquarters, it will not be long before this company's stock will be at full face value and earning good dividends to its investors.

The amount of ore in sight, promises the maintenance of the present producing capacity for many years, and it is estimated by experts that this capacity, as soon as machinery is provided for working that which is in sight, will run over a million dollars. There is no perceptible diminution in the productiveness of the lead taken as a whole, while the discoveries are constantly being made amongst their extensive claims, increases the capacity for production.

Southern Oregon is credited with having produced over \$30,000,000 in gold since its discovery in 1861. The Cascade Mountain District is the region lying south of Mt. Hood, and along the western slope of the Cascade mountains, extending through the counties of Clackamas, Marion, Linn and Lane. The Santiam section already penetrated by the Southern Pacific Railroad is the best developed. The Blue River and Bohemia districts a little farther south are now attracting a great deal of attention on account of the recent rich strikes there made when free milling ore running \$300 to the ton, has been found within the past few months.

The Chamber of Commerce of Portland should now take active steps to secure a government assay office for the city of Portland.

Among the minerals of Oregon, Riddle in Douglas county, Southern Oregon, possesses one of the few great known deposits of pure oxidized nickel ore. In a commercial point of view this is the most important mine in the state. It is of high grade and of practically inexhaustible quantity, and with the prominence which nickel is assuming since it was found to be an important factor in the manufacture of armor for vessels of war. Chrome ore is strikingly abundant in Southern Oregon. It has entered into commerce in a small way; a shipment or two having been made to the Bohemian manufacturers in Baltimore or Glasgow. California mines are now supplying the greater part of the American chrome at an average of \$12 per ton delivered in San Francisco, no ore carrying less than 45 per cent of sesquioxide of chromium, being able to find sale. The real value of 50 per cent ore is not less than \$80, as stated by first rate authorities, but the trade is in the hands of a very few dealers who, to all intents and purpose, constitute a kind of trust for keeping down the price paid to producers.

WOMEN AND THE WAR.

American Economist.

The American woman has a part to play in the war with Spain. The opportunity comes in the shape of a movement that has originated in Washington among the members of the American Women's Patriotic League, but it is a movement that may easily become general among the women of the United States. It is proposed by the Washington organization to institute retaliation and reprisals against France on account of that country's attitude of sympathy for Spain. Sensible and effective is the policy contemplated. It will strike the French people just where they deserve to be hit the hardest—that is in their pockets, for it is on account of Frenchmen's financial interests as holders of Spanish bonds and securities that the moral support of France is withheld from the United States.

The Washington members of the American Women's Patriotic League, under the leadership of the wives of cabinet members, senators and other influential people, are to pledge themselves to refrain absolutely from buying articles of any kind imported from France. This is a woman's way of striking a blow at the enemies of her country, and if the plan is carried out it will be a powerful blow. How powerful it will be can be judged when it is remembered that during 1897 the United States bought French goods to the value of \$67,500,000. These were almost wholly luxuries and composed of articles chiefly for the use of women.

It is said that the women of New York and other large cities have caught the patriotic infection and will make common cause against France. Let the movement become general through the concerted action of every woman's organization in the United States. It is an admirable opportunity for the patriotic women to cut an important figure in the war. To be effective it only needs to be unanimous. Ladies, you have the floor.

DIED.

Andrew Hoffman one of the pioneers of the lower Siuslaw died at his home near Point Terrace June 29, 1898. The funeral was held June 30th and the remains interred in Point Terrace cemetery. He was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, April 17th, 1833, and came to Oregon 1875 settling on the Siuslaw four years later. He leaves a wife, four sons and one daughter. They are Cornillius Hoffman who resides in California, Telford, Ira and Simon of Point Terrace and Mrs. M. J. Hadsall of Mapleton. A sister, Mrs. C. Stutz lives at Roseburg and other relatives in Ohio.

COMPLIMENTARY TO OUR READERS.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that the eminent physician and specialist, Dr. Kilmer, after years of research and study, has discovered and given to the world a most remarkable remedy, known as Swamp-Root, for the cure of kidney, liver and bladder troubles; the generous offer to send a bottle free that all may prove its wonderful merits without expense, is in itself sufficient to give the public confidence and a desire to obtain it. Swamp-Root has an established reputation as the most successful remedy, and is receiving the hearty endorsement of all up-to-date physicians, hospitals and homes. If our men and women readers are in need of a medicine of this kind no time should be lost in sending their name and address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. and receive a sample bottle and a book of valuable information, both sent absolutely free by mail, upon receipt of three two-cent stamps to cover cost of postage on the bottle. The regular sizes may be obtained at the drug stores. When writing please say you read this generous offer in the West.

A CARD.

"Courage to write is admirable." The above is from Gail Maker in your issue, Mr. Editor, of June 17th. She alleges that these words were addressed by me to her. I deny the charge. You are on the wrong trail again my good neighbor. I did not, in a cowardly, ungentlemanly and detestably mean way take a batch of your items, write a satirical criticism of the same and it to San Francisco to be mailed to you. Further more, I do not know the villain who did commit the contemptible trick. I wish I did that I might help you thoroughly "roast" him. When the beast is caught please let me have the first whack at him and the last one. Now Gail Maker don't scold me for not quarreling with your "dear hubby" over a land contest case in which I was interested only as an attorney. Gentlemen do not quarrel. Christians will not. Only bores or fools quarrel or try to provoke quarrels. I will not disgrace myself in that way.

SCOTT MORRIS of "OCCASIONAL."

Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

Deep versed in books but shallow in himself. Reason may cure illusions but not suffering.

Rashness and haste make all things insecure.

We can only reason from what is; we can reason on actualities, but not on possibilities.

Many are destined to reason wrongly; others not to reason at all; and others to persecute those who do not reason.

The obscurest sayings of the truly great are often those which contain the germ of the profoundest and most useful truths.

Faith evermore looks upward and decries objects remote; but reason can discover things only near,—sees nothing that's above her.

Let us not dream that reason can ever be popular. Passions, emotions, may be made popular, but reason is ever the property of the few.

Coarse kindness is, at least, better than coarse anger; and in all private quarrels the duller nature is triumphant by reason of its dullness.

Natural religion supplies still the facts which are disguised under the dogma of popular creeds. The progress of religion is steady to its identity with morals.

Why is it that a blessing only when it is lost cuts as deep into the heart as a sharp diamond? Why must we first weep before we can love so deeply that our hearts ache?

Read, and refine your appetite; learn to live upon instruction; feast your mind and mortify your flesh; read, and take your nourishment in at your eyes, shut up your mouth, and chew the cud of understanding.

There are innumerable questions to which the inquisitive mind can, in this state, receive no answer: Why do you and I exist? Why was this world created? And, since it was to be created, why was it not created sooner?

I have been more and more convinced, the more I think of it, that in general, pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes. All the other passions do occasional good; but when pride puts in its word, everything goes wrong; and what it might really be desirable to do, quietly and innocently, it is mortally dangerous to do proudly.

There is an old Chinese proverb which says: "You can not prevent the birds of sadness from flying over your heads, but you may prevent them from stopping to build their nests in your hair." Perhaps I have quoted this before, but if so, it does not matter, for here is a truth quaintly put, which we need to hold constantly in thought. We are too apt to invite that sort of birds to stop and make their nests, instead of sending them about their business. The habit of petting sorrows is one that is easily acquired, and the more so when people cherish the idea that it is the correct thing to do.

SHOOTING NEAR HARRISBURG.

Chas. Turner of Eugene Killed by T M McGrath

On Thursday June 30th Charles Turner of Eugene was shot and instantly killed near Harrisburg by T M McGrath. The report says that McGrath was jealous of Turner and accused him of being intimate with Mrs. McGrath. He went two or three miles from his home to where Turner was working and after a few words drew a revolver and shot him. Three men working in the same field were eye witnesses of the shooting. McGrath immediately gave himself up to them and was taken to Harrisburg.

An inquest was held the same afternoon and McGrath was charged with murder in the first degree. He was given an examination at Harrisburg and held without bonds to await the action of the grand jury. Turner was about 19 years old, McGrath 65 and his wife 35.

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TO OUR PATRONS. We have made arrangements by which we will furnish the Weekly Oregonian with the West for one year to any address for the sum of two dollars, payable cash in advance.