

To cover the cost of setting and distributing the type in such matters, a charge of fifty cents will be made for each "Card of Thanks," and five cents per line for each set of "Resolutions of Condolence" appearing in these columns.

LOCAL NEWS.

Charlie Newton has been dangerously ill of late.

The state legislature meets a week from Monday, January 12th.

Commissioners court will convene next week in regular monthly session.

Mrs. Ida Nelson returned from Portland, Saturday. She was down there for six weeks or two months.

Prof. E. F. Pernot has just had a 4 foot sidewalk laid along the west side of his residence property on College Hill.

Saturday, W. A. Wells sold 4 lots, block 17, in Jobs addition to Mrs. Rebecca Harlan. The consideration was \$120.

Chicken pox is a luxury (?) that those who can afford it are enjoying in various communities as a holiday diversion.

Wear Ralston Health Shoes—thecure for cold and wet feet. All leathers and styles: price, \$4. S. L. Kline, sole agent.

During the past few days snow has crept pretty well down the hillsides just west of Corvallis. It was a chilly spectacle.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garrow, who for the past week have been visiting relatives in Salem, are now in Corvallis for an extended visit.

Diamond rings, diamond ear drops, diamond studs, diamond brooches, and diamond stick pins at E. W. S. Pratt's, Jeweler and Optician.

During the past month there was quite a large number of real estate transfers recorded. Real estate business seems to have been quite animated.

Henry Ambler, real estate dealer of Philomath, was in Corvallis doing business, Saturday. He is sanguine regarding the future of Benton county.

During last week the following licenses to wed were granted: Clarence Albin and Mae Burnap, James J. Johnson and Sarah J. Bailey, and W. C. Reese and Anna A. Howard.

Committees of Woodmen have been exceedingly busy of late arranging for the big event that is scheduled for today. Beyond doubt this will be the greatest affair of its kind that ever took place in this city.

Mrs. E. E. Paddock entertained a number of young people Thursday evening in honor of Miss Sarah Jacobs, of Corvallis, who has been visiting her. Music and games were the amusements of the evening and a delicious luncheon was served.—Independence Enterprise.

Prof. S. I. Pratt, principal of the public schools of Philomath, was in town on business last Saturday. He says he has a good school out there, the enrollment of pupils being something more than 160. Prof. Pratt says he has a good ninth-grade class. School will open again next Monday.

Since Christmas everything about town has been very quiet. Trade is slack, but this is a usual thing just after holidays. However, day after tomorrow we will start in on a new year and we may be afforded opportunity to do all sorts of things. This is the time of new resolutions—such as are made for one day and broken for an entire year.

It has now about reached the season of the year for hunting matches. So far this season Corvallis sportsmen have not attempted a match hunt and there is little or no talk of such an event very soon. Those who have been afield recently declared that game is scarce. A party who was out a few days ago considered himself fortunate when he secured a duck and a muskrat.

S. L. Kline has a Woodman window that has attracted considerable attention during the past few days. The window is dressed with the stars and stripes as a background, and there is an oak stump as the main feature. In the stump an axe is sticking and across the handle a towel is hung. Near the base of the stump there is a glass of water and a cellar of salt. Each article has its significance for a Woodman.

Ray Carter, who holds a position in E. R. Hornung's grocery store, left Saturday, for Newberg. It is said that today he will be united in wedlock to Miss Chase, of that city. The young couple expect to arrive in this city during the latter part of the week and will take up their residence in the J. H. Simpson house, near the home of Dr. Cathey. Mr. Carter has many friends in this city, is quite popular, and from reports his bride is equally popular in her home. Congratulations are extended.

Oil meal for sale at Graham & Wells. Splendid feed for dairy stock.

Victor Spencer left yesterday to resume his duties as a pharmacist in Astoria after a short visit in this city.

Improvements are in progress near the Fischer Flouring Mills. A couple of barns are in course of construction.

Miss Rose Price, who spent Christmas in Albany at the home of her mother, came back to Corvallis yesterday.

Allen Bates has accepted a position in a drug store at The Dalles, and left yesterday to assume the duties of that position.

The next attraction at the Opera House will be the rural play "Sandy Bottom." The company is said to be a strong one, and the date of its appearance is January 10th.

Visitors to the Episcopal church Christmas eve were delightfully entertained. The feature of the evening was a talk by the pastor on the early life of our Lord, illustrated by a powerful stereopticon.

The United Evangelical Church—Watchnight service on Wednesday beginning at 9 p. m. Rev. T. T. Vincent will occupy the pulpit next Sunday in the absence of the pastor. No service at Mt. Vieo Sunday afternoon.

Lazarus V. King and Miss Ella V. La Sene were married at the home of the bride's parents in Portland, Sunday, December 21, 1902. Rev. T. M. Ramsdell performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. King have been visiting relatives in Corvallis for the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Gibson, and little son, leave shortly for a pleasure trip in California. They will go immediately to Los Angeles. After a stay in that city, they will start for Corvallis, visiting other places on the way home, which they expect to reach about next May.

"Everything in sight," seems to be the motto of Linn county. The present attorney general and state printer-elect are Linn county men, and the governor-elect was formerly from that county. Now Linn is asking that the state game warden be chosen from within her borders.

Ernest Sherbloom, who attended the O. A. C. several years ago, recently wrote a friend in this city regarding himself and prospects. He is now at Williamson, North Dakota. He is auditor of the Great Northern Railroad and receives a salary of \$125 per month. He has 600 miles of road to attend. When he wrote the thermometer was 33 below zero.

Charley Collins, who drives a motor wagon for the Corvallis Sawmill Co., had a narrow escape yesterday. He was driving a large team of horses attached to the running gear of the wagon. The animals started to run near Phillips' blacksmith shop and Charley was jarred from his seat on the ridge pole. He hung on to the pole with one arm and held the lines with the other hand. The runaways were stopped near the postoffice, and Charley clambered to his feet covered with mud, but none the worse for having been dragged three hundred yards.

In selecting an all-star football team to represent the Pacific Northwest, the Oregonian chooses Bert Pilkington, of O A C for halfback. In selecting him for this position that paper says: "Although Pilkington played fullback in most of the games this year, Coach Herbold believes that he is cut out for a halfback, and would do better in that position. As a fullback, he is a close rival to Brown (of Whitman College) and his absence from the team would prove a weakness. Pilkington is a fierce line-bucker and can always be relied upon to take the ball for a gain. In defensive work he is the peer of any player in this section." Speidel, of Washington, is selected for quarter. Says the Oregonian: "Five times during the season he boosted the leather over his opponents' goal posts, and had he not done so when the points were needed, Washington's games with Whitman and the O A C would have resulted in a tie."

Those who hold stock in the Great Eastern Mining company have reason to congratulate themselves on their good fortune as recent assays are most flattering. The company owns in all, nineteen claims in the Bohemia district. They have developed but two of the claims so far. On the Great Eastern two tunnels have been run into the mountain; one tunnel is in a distance of 60 feet and the other something like 200 feet. Both tunnels strike the same vein of ore and the ledge is from three to four feet deep. An assay was made of the ore taken from the end of the 60-foot tunnel and it averaged \$45.39 per ton. The ore taken from the same ledge at a depth of 200 feet assayed still better, going \$88.07 per ton.

On the Elephant claim there is a splendid ledge. Picked ore taken from the vein about 20 feet from the surface assayed \$150.87 per ton. There is also a free-milling proposition that shows up well. Numerous assays of this body of ore have been made and an average of \$25 per ton is the result.

All of the block of 50,000 shares that was first placed on the market has been sold. Next Monday there will be a meeting of the stockholders, in this city, for the purpose of electing a board of directors, etc. It is

thought that the sale of another block of 50,000 shares of stock will be authorized at this meeting, and the probability is that shares will be placed on the market at 15 cents each. The reason for selling stock is that sufficient funds may be secured to develop the mines, to place machinery for working, etc. Beyond doubt this is one of the best propositions floating about the country today, as a few samples of picked ore have assayed close to \$1,000 per ton.

Steps are being taken by the various county courts of the Willamette valley to begin a systematic crusade of road improvement in the spring.

Polk county, under the administration of the present county court, is waking up to the importance of good roads. Within the past year over 3000 feet of wooden bridges have been replaced with earth fills over sewer pipe culverts. This policy will be kept up as fast as old bridges and culverts can be repaired, and as soon as the finances of the county will permit, the court will commence a system of steel bridges over the large streams of the county. It is the intention to construct in each road district a section of road, built scientifically as an object lesson. Supervisors will be expected to follow the pattern. County judge Sibley is a strong advocate of the county roadmaster system, and says the law should not be repealed.

CORVALLIS POSTOFFICE.

Some Figures Relating to the Business of this Office.

Comparatively few people have any idea of the magnitude of the postal system of "Uncle Sam," however well informed they may be on general matters. Indeed, not one person in 500 has anywhere near a correct idea of the business carried on in an office of the Corvallis class. Last week, the Eastern mails were delayed and it was reported that some 30 or 35 sacks of Corvallis mail were held up. There were many who doubted this, for the reason that so many sacks seemed to them an exaggeration. B. W. Johnson, Corvallis postmaster, kindly assisted us by furnishing the following data:

Last Wednesday, 15 sacks of mail were received; the following day 28 sacks arrived, and on Friday 12 sacks arrived at this office. This was occasioned by the hold-up of the mails, as above mentioned.

For the year ending Dec. 31st, 1901, the postal receipts from postage stamps, were \$5,180.64; the receipts for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1902, will approximate \$5,900. This is certainly a good stamp and postal card sale for a place of this size. During one day last week \$47 worth of stamps were sold. The receipts of the office for the quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1901, were \$1,439.84; for the quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1902, the receipts will be approximately \$1,640. This is an increase of about 15 per cent. over last year.

The number of money orders issued from Oct. 1st, 1902, to Dec. 26th, 1902, was 1,620. The number of money orders paid during the same period was 1,012. This feature of the office represents a vast sum of money and consumes considerable time. During this period, 216 registers were dispatched and 385 were received.

At the Corvallis office there is an average of from 5 to 10 tie-sacks and from 4 to 6 pouches incoming daily. Tie-sacks contain papers and packages, while the pouches are utilized for the conveyance of letters, registered matter, etc. A tie-sack will contain about 150 papers on an average. The incoming mail brings from 1,000 to 2,000 letters per day.

From 20 to 25 tie-sacks are dispatched from this office, weekly, and about the same number of pouches, making from 40 to 50 sacks of mail matter that is dispatched each week. An average of from 500 to 1,000 letters are dispatched daily.

It will be seen from the above figures that the postmaster "has troubles of his own;" that if he gets dyspepsia there is a cause for it, and that he must be a capable person. He must possess the faculty of remembering names and faces in order to face the general delivery window just after the heavy mails have been distributed. He is to be kicked at despite his every effort to please. That he may make a mistake now and then is to be expected—he would not be human if he did not—but it goes without saying that he does his utmost to please.

Splendid Prospects.

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Benton Must Not Lag.

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Rural Route Ordered.

The postal department at Washington has ordered the establishment of the proposed rural route from Corvallis petitioned for a year ago last spring. The route was inspected last July and it was hoped that the service would be in operation by the first of last September.

The following letter from the general superintendent of the free delivery system to Senator Mitchell, dated December 16, 1902, will explain the reason for delay:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of recent date, inclosing a communication from Mr. B. W. Johnson, postmaster at Corvallis, Oregon, asking your assistance in securing establishment of a proposed rural route from that place. Referring to your request that the route be put into operation at an early date, I beg to state that as soon as the additional appropriation, request for which has been made, becomes available, the Department expects to issue orders for establishment of all routes now favorably reported upon, to become effective within the next two or three months; and the Corvallis route will doubtless be established within that time."

A telegram from Washington states that the route has been ordered. It is about 25 miles in length. Beginning at Corvallis, it runs north on the Independence road to Blake's; thence back to Mt. View school house; thence west to O. Martin's; thence east to Richland school house; thence south on the Albany road to Corvallis. About a hundred families will be served.

Reason Sugar Is High.

One reason for the strength of the sugar market is said to be the short crop of beet sugar in Europe, which in Germany alone is estimated to amount to 1,200,000 tons. This shortage has caused a material advance of raw sugar all over the world, particularly in Germany, which seems to be the present controlling factor in establishing the value of sugar. The raw sugar is today higher in Hamburg and in London than it is in the United States. America is still compelled to draw a good portion of her supply from Europe. The refiners have to pay this advance, and in order to get out even, they necessarily have to advance the price of the refined article. The prices that have been ruling up to about 60 days ago for the raw article have been the lowest ever existing, and so far below the cost of production.

Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of stockholders of the Great Eastern Mining Co. will occur at the store of Milner & Wellsher, this city, at 8 p. m., Jan. 5th, 1903, for the purpose of electing a board of directors, transacting such other business as usually comes before such meetings.

A Valuable Bulletin.

The government has published and distributed as a bulletin the report upon "Prunes and Prune Culture in Western Europe with Special Reference to Existing Conditions in the Pacific Northwest" by Prof. Edward R. Lake, of the Oregon Experiment Station. It also contains important references to the Mirabelle group of plums and their economic value in the countries visited.

Professor Lake visited France and other portions of Europe, a few years ago as a representative of the government to investigate the prune industry in those countries. The expenses of the investigation of which this bulletin is the official report were defrayed from the appropriation of the division of botany for botanical investigations. The bulletin contains the report of a careful investigation of the economics of the prune industry in Western Europe, more especially in France and Germany, and should be of much value to all interested in prune culture, and there are many valuable and interesting half-tone illustrations.

In his introduction, Prof. Lake says, "The prune industry of the Pacific Northwest, including the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, is today the foremost pomological interest of this section. Beginning with a few trees planted by the late Henry Miller, at Milwaukee, Or., in 1860, and a commercial orchard planted near Portland, Or., by Dr. J. R. Cardwell, in 1871, the plantings have increased until there are approximately 50,000 acres of commercial prune orchards in these three states. The estimated value of this acreage, together with equipment, including apparatus, evaporating and packing plants, is \$20,000,000."

"The prune industry of France is about a thousand years old, and with a few exceptions due to the introduction of modern commercial evaporating and packing plants, it is carried on in much the same way today, so far as the producer is concerned, as it was 400 or more years ago. While the industry is less than a half century old in America, and great changes have been made in the method of producing the cured product, French methods have remained practically unchanged for centuries."

Will Discontinue New Years.

The butcher shops of Corvallis will discontinue running their meat wagons after New Years, and will close their doors every evening at 7 o'clock. The city delivery wagons will accommodate customers of the meat markets on the morning and afternoon trips.

Young's Cash Store.

Ladies' Goods at low prices, to close out. Full line of woolen hosiery, also fancy goods. Orders for groceries may be sent by telephone.

Notice to the Public.

On account of the advance in prices of blacksmithing supplies, we, the undersigned blacksmiths of Corvallis, find it necessary to raise the prices of horseshoeing. On and after January 1st, 1903, two dollars per horse for new shoes all around, and one dollar per horse for old shoes all around, will be charged.

Signed, Wm. Porter, Hornung Bros., L. V. Baker, J. T. Phillips, Corvallis, Or., Dec. 26, 1902.

To the Public.

On account of the increased price of feed, blacksmithing and repairing, we, the undersigned draymen of Corvallis, find it necessary to make a corresponding raise in charges for our services. On and after January 1st, 1903, the charge for hauling lumber will be 25c, 50c and 75c; 4-ft wood 75 cents per cord; household goods, 50 cents and 75 cents per hour.

Watch Confidence

Makes traveling a pleasure, when correct time is always a necessity. Yours may be a capable timekeeper, but through accident repairing you have lost faith in it.

Albert J. Metzger

Occidental Building, Corvallis, Or. Vefek Seed

For sale. Address M. S. Woodcock, Corvallis, Oregon.

Don't Forget The Clearance Sale AT S. L. KLINE'S BEGINS Jan. 1st, 1903.

The Business College Man Will give a Complete, Thorough, Up-to-date Course in Business, Pen Art, Short Hand, Typewriting

Home-Seekers: If you are looking for some real good bargains in Stock, Grain, Fruit and Poultry Ranches, write for my special list or come and see me.

Come Early It is so now late that you can't come early in the season, but you can come early in the day and avoid the Christmas rush which is now on at

Fruits for the Christmas Table do here abound—fruits fresh and fruits fresh when encased in glass or tin; therefore sweet, fine flavored, luscious now.

P. M. ZIEROLF

THE Pioneer Bakery Fresh bread daily. A complete stock of candies, fruits and nuts kept constantly on hand. Smokers supplies a specialty. Confectionery H. W. HALL Proprietor.