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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

A Fatal Fire. VALLEJO, Cal., Dec. 21.—At 10 minutes after 8 o'clock there exploded a lamp of alcohol in the old Philadelphia house, known as the Salina's Home, located on Georgia street, near the wharf.

A Wreck on the Rail. WALLA WALLA, Dec. 22.—The O. R. & N. passenger train was wrecked this morning at Menoken station about thirty-five miles east of Walla Walla.

The Peace Commission. WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The state department has not learned that the Ottoman port has given the requested sanction for the Ottoman port to accompany a commission to Armenia as an independent commissioner, as directed by the president.

The Hammer Falls. CORVALLIS, Dec. 22.—The Oregon Pacific railroad was sold under foreclosure brought by the Farmers Loan & Trust Co. of New York, at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Notes from Kingsley. KINGSLEY, Dec. 21, 1894. It is time that I was redeeming my promise made to you some time ago to furnish some items from this portion of Wasco county, and so I will begin.

Drowned in Snake River. Information reached here this week of an case of drowning in Snake river at a point about one mile above the mouth of the Imnaha, on the 27th of last month.

Trade Coming This Way. The Wasco Journal says: Our business men are considering the making of a road from here to The Dalles, to be completed by the time the Columbia river is open to that point, which it is expected will be some time during the coming year.

Tobacco in Washington. During the past season many individual experiments have been conducted in Western Washington in the culture of tobacco, and the results so far as the yield and quality are concerned, are reported fairly satisfactory.

Notice. The D. P. & A. N. Co. will tie up their steamers for necessary repairs on January 6, 1895, and will resume operations as soon after repairs are made as possible.

An International Postage Stamp. The German government is about to place a proposition before European countries relative to the issue of an international postage stamp.

SHIPS' THIRTY FEET YEARLY. The Earth's Axis Rather a Wobbly Affair, According to This Authority.

We do not refer to the long known shifting of the direction of the axis of the earth, which produces the so-called "precession of the equinoxes."

The fact that such a thing is really happening was first clearly brought out in 1889 in Germany, and ever since the subject has greatly interested the astronomical world.

It seems to be made up of two supposed revolutions of the pole from west to east—one with a period of just a year, in a circle of about 30 feet in diameter, and the other in a circle of similar size, but with a period of 428 days.

As regards the cause of this peculiar motion, the theory is more or less obscure. There can be little doubt, however, that the annual oscillation is due in part to the fact that Lord Kelvin long ago suggested, to the course of the season, to the winter's deposit of snow and ice upon the northern continents and its later return to the ocean.

More than 100,000 tons of snow are observed a remarkable custom in Egypt, says Professor Drummond.

At a certain season of the year the Egyptians went into the desert, cut off branches from the willow plant, and bringing them back to their gardens waved them over the flowers of the date palm. Why they performed this ceremony they did not know, but they knew that if they neglected it the date crop would be poor or wholly lost.

Herodotus offers the quaint explanation that along with these branches there came from the desert certain flies possessed of a "virile" virtue, which somehow lent an exuberant fertility to the dates. But the true rationale to the incantation is now explained. Palm trees, like human beings, are male and female. The garden plants, the date bearers, were females, the desert plants were males, and the waving of the branches over the females meant the transference of the fertilizing pollen from the one to the other.

Bygone. A professor in a scientific school was questioning a student on some matters which had been gone over at the beginning of the term.

"I say, professor," said the student, "but the matter is hardly fair."

"What do you mean?" asked the professor.

"Why, don't you think we ought to do as Shakespeare says and let bygone be bygone?"

Johnnie—Say, mamma, what does "fox populi" mean?

Mamma—it means the voice of the people.

Johnnie—Then, if you wanted to speak of the voice of only one man, wouldn't you say "vox populi"—Detroit Free Press.

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MOST PERFECT MADE. A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

Children Cry for PITCHER'S CASTORIA.

Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any preparation known to me.

From personal knowledge I can say that Castoria is a most excellent medicine for children.

Castoria promotes Digestion, and overcomes Flatulency, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, and Feverishness.

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