

**THE OREGON SCOUT.**

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**ELECTRICAL PROGRESS.**

**Scientific and Practical Advances Made During the Past Year.**

Much yet remains to be accomplished in electric condition but the great gains of the closing year, technical and commercial, are abundantly apparent.

The rate at which electric motors have been installed for stationary power is scarcely less noticeable than the development of electric traction during the year. About the first of September it was estimated that 6,000 electric motors were driving machinery in the United States. A thousand have probably been added since. It seems reasonable to estimate the number put in operation for the year at not much less than 4,000.

The use of the storage battery as a means of distribution may fairly be said to have made relatively slow advancement, while in many special cases its employment has been of great value and importance. Its problems have had and continue to enlist the close attention and skill of many able investigators and inventors, and it can not be doubted that the modern success thus far attained by this obviously important and necessary means of distributing electricity will be followed long hence by such improvements as will make the accumulator a general and trustworthy instrument in electrical engineering.

The electric light, arc and incandescent, has become so familiar to every body, even in the far Western Territories, that its continued rapid spread no longer attracts attention. It is expected everywhere; its absence in any considerable town is more noticed than its presence. Great activity in the installation of central station plants has prevailed during the year, especially in incandescent lighting. The success of the alternating current method of distribution in covering large areas of relatively sparse consumption has largely stimulated the demand for electric lighting in the smaller towns of the country, and has also contributed not a little toward inciting the companies whose business is based upon other methods of distribution to improving the capacity of their apparatus and the serviceableness of their lamps. The life of lamps has been materially prolonged, while a reduction has been effected in the amount of energy required per candle-power. Whatever may be thought of the policy of competition in prices, there can be no question of the general benefit of competition in the efficiency and trustworthiness of apparatus and lamps. Competition of the former kind, while severe, has crippled only the weak, while that of the latter sort has resulted in advantage to both producers and consumers.

The practical success of the employment of alternating currents has reacted in the laboratories of scientific research, and led to the study of new questions, or old questions in a new light—study and experiment which have already done much to clear the path of the practical electrician in his work, and which indicate the early acquisition of further electrical knowledge of great significance.

The year's scientific and practical advances are great enough for congratulation, but not great enough to induce complacent satisfaction and relaxation of effort.—*Electrical Engineer.*

**A HARMLESS TALE.**

**How Honora Quieted the Juvenile Portion of the Perkins Household.**

"Remember, Honora," said Mrs. Perkins to the new nurse girl, "that I do not allow the children to hear stories that might frighten them when they go to bed. You may tell them about birds and harmless little fairy stories, but nothing about bears or lions."

"Yes, mem," replied Honora, and this was the harmless little story she told that night:

"Wanst there wuz a gr-r-reat big monsther of an animal wid horns an' a tail of hot fire an' teeth a yard long that wint around in the dead of the noight atin up little byes an' girrls that boddored their nurse askin' her to get up an' give them wather in the noight an' tellin' how she lift the baby for a wurrid wid the perlace-mine in the parruk and little things lolke that. An' this ter-r-rible big monsther could go roight through solid walls, could yeez, an' he'd ate yeez up fers yeez could screame out. Now cuddle up an' go to slape like good byes an' girrls or he'll be affther yeez af yeez say a wurrid. Moid that. St'hop yer shiverin' now. Birdie, an' phwat do yeez mane by chat'erin' yer teeth lolke that, Willie? To slape wid yeez or yeez'll be ate up the minit I takes the light out."—*Time.*

**They Both Camped Out.**

"How did you spend the last summer?" asked one traveling man of another whom he had not seen for some time.

"Oh, I had a fine time. Never enjoyed myself more in my life."

"What did you do?"

"I was camping out among the northern lakes. What did you do?"

"I did considerable campin' out myself."

"Whereabouts?"

"On the front door step—my wife wouldn't let me in."

**FROM WASHINGTON.**

**CONGRESSMAN BRECKENRIDGE IS REQUESTED TO RESIGN.**

**Additional Appropriations in the Naval Bill—A Constitutional Government for Samoa—Sewell to be Relieved as Consul.**

The House public lands committee have recommended higher rates of pay to surveyors in exceptional instances.

Senator Mitchell has introduced a bill to establish a port of entry at Blaine, W. T.

Senator Stewart, of Virginia, has presented a petition for the restoration of silver to its place as a co-equal measure of value with gold.

The Liberal Members of Parliament at Ottawa, Canada, have decided to continue the present policy, which favors unrestricted reciprocity with the United States.

The Senate committee on woman suffrage has reported favorably on the joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit the denial of the right to vote by the United States, or any State, on account of sex.

The President has made the following nominations: C. D. Wright, of Massachusetts, commissioner of labor; Thomas M. Vance, of North Carolina, receiver of public moneys, at North Yakima, W. T.

The survey of the lands in the Umatilla Indian reservation is to be made before they are offered for sale. The secretary of the interior holds that they must first be inspected, and an order to this effect has already been issued.

A Congressional committee has been examining the construction of the Washington aqueduct tunnel, and has concluded to order the entire lining of the tunnel replaced at the expense of the contractors, nearly \$500,000.

Secretary Bayard suggests a very good scheme of constitutional government for Samoa, with a native legislature, securing its independence and autonomy, including the acknowledgment of Malietoa as king and Tamasese as vice king.

A bill has been favorably reported in both Houses of Congress to place Gen. W. S. Rosecrans on the retired list of the army. He is at present register of the treasury. If the bill become a law he will receive retired pay at the rate of \$4000 per annum.

There is an outspoken sentiment among the Republican Senators and Republicans in the House, that a complete change be made in the civil service commission, and the commission for the District of Columbia. There is not a Republican on either board.

The Senate committee on military affairs has ordered a favorable report upon the proposition to present Mrs. Irene Rucker Sheridan with \$50,000, in token of the country's appreciation of the services rendered by her husband, Gen. Phil H. Sheridan. This is urged in lieu of a pension.

In view of the insufficient evidence produced to support the charges made by Representative Steel, of Indiana, against Judge Bond, of Arizona, as a basis for impeachment proceedings, the House committee on judiciary has declined to enter upon consideration of the case at present.

There is a very loud call for Congressman Breckinridge, of Arkansas, to resign his seat in the next Congress and ask for a new election, on account of Clayton's assassination; and many of his friends are advising him to do so. They insist that this is the only way that he can clear himself from the suspicion of sharing in the results of the assassination.

Secretary Whitney has issued an important order regarding the naval records of the war of the rebellion. It has been found on examining the papers on file in the navy department, that almost the only ones there, are those addressed directly to the department. He desires certified copies of all orders to officers and war memoranda to be forwarded to the war department.

Superintendent Thorn, of the coast and geodetic survey, has submitted an estimate for an additional appropriation of \$3680, which he says is necessary to make the repairs on the United States coast and geodetic survey steamer McArthur, now at San Francisco, to put it in condition for the work of the coast of Washington Territory and Oregon the coming season.

It is announced that the recall of American Consul General Sewell from Samoa, has created an excellent feeling in Berlin. The German papers urge the necessity for the recall of the English consul also, alleging that he contributed largely to the trouble. The three powers might then be represented by other trustworthy agents, who would assist in bringing about a friendly settlement.

Heavy additions have been made to the naval bill. The construction of two steel gun-boats, or cruisers, is provided for, to be of from 8000 to 12,000 tons displacement, and to cost not more than \$700,000; also, one steel cruiser of 2000 tons displacement, to cost \$700,000. An appropriation is also made for one ram for harbor defense, in accordance with the plans prepared by the naval advisory board of 1881. In order that the vessels may be speedily built, the appropriation for steel machinery is increased by \$1,500,000, and that for armament by \$1,400,000. All the new vessels are to be lighted by electricity, and \$60,000 is appropriated for that purpose.

**THE PACIFIC COAST.**

**A WORKMAN'S DISCOVERY OF RICH TREASURE TROVE.**

**Clever Sneak Thieves at Work in San Francisco—A Five and a Quarter Million Mortgage—The Quake in California.**

Sacramento is overrun with thieves. In Ventura, Cal., flowers are blooming prematurely.

Herring are caught in large numbers in Humboldt bay.

The Gurney cable system has been introduced into San Diego.

Sam Jones has completed his revival meetings at Los Angeles.

The lumber mills of Olympia are pushed to their utmost capacity.

It is now unlawful to sell intoxicating liquors to a woman in Nevada.

Eighty-two boxes of opium were seized at San Luis Obispo, recently.

No immediate trouble is apprehended with the Indians near Bridgeport, Mono county.

It is believed that the voters of Nevada will defeat the lottery amendment to the constitution.

A scarlet geranium leaf in Tulare county, Cal., measured forty-seven inches in circumference.

The assessment roll of Vancouver for 1889 shows an increase of 90 per cent over that of last year.

The cold weather at Los Angeles has injured the ostrich-farm eggs that were intended for hatching.

Since electric lights were introduced at Willows, Cal., not a wild goose has been seen to fly over the town.

George Hopper, of Los Angeles, a well known mining man, is the latest victim of the gold brick swindle.

Several earthquake shocks are reported to have occurred at San Bernardino, Colton and Los Angeles.

The postoffice authorities are negotiating for the purpose of dispatching the mail by the Golden Gate special.

The deposit of slickens in the Spokane river has alarmed the people of Spokane Falls as to their future water supply.

A San Diego man has planted ten acres in mulberry trees, preparatory to going into the business of raising silk-worms.

At Rincon, Cal., a thief had thirteen bullets put into his body while running from a party of cow-boys who were after him.

Petaluma has memorialized the legislature of California to pass a law making it unlawful to kill larks, robins or blackbirds.

The bill introduced into the Nevada legislature restricting the wearing of high hats in theaters, has been defeated in the upper house.

J. F. Glennon, the San Francisco policeman who attempted to murder Willie Burke, has been found guilty of assault to commit murder.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**REMARKABLE BILLS INTRODUCED INTO STATE LEGISLATURES.**

**The Eccentric Will of a New York Pedagogue—The Ghastly Crime of a Philadelphia Street-car Employee—Cold Waves.**

An exodus of negro laborers from South Carolina is now in progress.

President Cleveland will practice law in New York city after March 4.

The new union depot at Pueblo, Col., will cost between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

The Kansas legislature has passed a bill restricting the ownership of land in that state.

Wisconsin lumbermen are up in arms at an order forbidding logging in certain districts.

The Dakota legislature has passed a law taxing railroad property the same as other property.

The bill to provide for inflicting the death sentence by electricity has passed the Ohio senate.

Four Chinamen were scalded to death by a Geyser at Canyon City, near Yellowstone Park, last week.

The post-mortem medical report in the case of Crown Prince Rudolph, sets at rest the rumors of his murder.

Dr. E. A. Kelley, superintendent of the State insane asylum at Norfolk, Neb., has been arrested on a charge of murder.

Ohio and Kentucky tobacco growers have agreed to raise twenty-five per cent less tobacco next season than the last.

It is said that Secretary Bayard has accepted Bismarck's proposition for a conference at Berlin on the Samoan question.

A very large meteor fell in Chicago last week. It burst into many pieces and specimens have been picked up for analysis.

Canada is making an effort to secure independence of all lines of traffic passing through any portion of the United States.

The Trades assembly at Chicago at a mass-meeting has demanded the removal of Police Inspector Bonfield and Captain Schaak.

The cold wave and blizzard throughout Canada is intense, the thermometer registering in many places forty degrees below zero.

The supreme court at Washington has lately decided the law constitutional which prohibits ranchmen from fencing any of the public domain.

At Marion, Indiana, an outbreak was prevented among tobacco strippers and stemmers owing to the importation of negroes to do the work.

Some of the Canadians not only want annexation for their own country to the United States, but want to have Mexico annexed to the south.

The Arkansas legislature has offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the thieves who stole the ballot-box and poll-book last November.

The wolves, it is said, are making things deadly lively in some districts in Montana, killing colts and steers, and in some instances pursuing human beings.

A bill has passed the Indiana Senate declaring unlawful all trusts, pools, agreements and combinations, in restraint of trade, production, manufacture or sale. The House will also pass the bill.

**AGRICULTURAL.**

**STRAW AS A MATERIAL FOR SUBSTANTIAL STOCK SHELTERS.**

**A Good Idea for a Hoist for a Barn—The Treatment that Should be Given to Fowls—Receipt for Destroying the Weevil.**

The longer turnups and cabbages can remain out without actually freezing, the better they are for eating purposes and the better they will keep through the winter.

Economy is certainly wealth in the feeding of farm horses, and yet it does not necessarily mean stinting or cutting off of rations. Give this matter a thorough investigation, and see if there is not more in it than a superficial glance would indicate.

Corn meal in small quantities, mixed with small quantities, and a liberal quantity of good bran meal with the roughness, will make an admirable winter feed for milk cows, and if given liberally, with good shelter, it is possible to secure a good flow of milk during the winter; provided, of course, that you have a good breed of cows, that this feed can be given to curing the winter.

By pouring boiling water over any kind of grain, and allowing the grain to remain twenty-four hours, it will swell and prove an acceptable change to the fowls. The soaked grain undergoes a partial chemical change, contains a slightly larger portion of sugar, and is really more digestible. Nothing is added to the grain by soaking it, but it will be more readily eaten for some time than dry grain, though the birds will return to dry grain as a preference if fed too long on that which is soaked.

A correspondent of the New England Farmer gives the following directions for destroying the potato weevil: Take an ordinary manure hod, one that is broad and light is to be preferred, and grasping it by the hole for the left hand near the mouth of the hod, with a broad and limber broom carried with the right hand, proceed through the field, placing the hod against vines infested with grubs and gently beating or sweeping them over the edge of the hod and into it with the broom. In this way a great majority of all the grubs in a small potato patch may be gathered in a short time and destroyed. This may be of service, especially in cases where there are objections to the use of poisons offered in the markets. A little practice will enable a person to do execution with the above implements with considerable dispatch.

Straw as a material for stock shelters have favorable qualities: It is a very poor conductor of heat, hence it makes a warm shelter. It costs little, being produced in abundance on a large majority of farms; and its employment for this purpose does not require special skill beyond the farmer. But it is not as economical as many suppose. It is as necessary that the top of the shelter be water tight as that the sides be wind tight—even more important. A straw roof can be kept in and snow proof only by frequent repairs. Straw is not a durable material and a straw shelter is not long-lived. In many cases where straw shelters are now used, a proper computation would show lumber to be more economical; and as it is usually cheaper to paint lumber than not to do so, the cheapest shelter would be a neat, substantial painted one.

One of my neighbors had a fine pen of fowls; had had them confined in a small, dark house, with no run attached, and I suppose all the corn they could eat, as they were very fat when I purchased them. My neighbor said he was sick and tired of them; no demand for eggs and no eggs; could never make a living raising fancy fowls. I was not suitably fixed for taking another breed, but as I got them for \$1 each, about one-tenth their value, I bought them and took them home, intending to do the best possible by them, considering the conveniences at hand. Took two orders for eggs before driving home. I placed them in a small house with a 16x16 foot run. As I said before they were very fat. My first move was to see that they had plenty of exercise, and thereby reduce them in flesh. I divided a portion of their run off and put in about one foot of straw, and they had to scratch for a living. It was not very long until they were shelling out eggs to their full capacity.—*Poultry Keeper.*

A good idea for a hoist for a barn is to erect two upright posts six inches square and firmly fastened in the upper part of the building, one on either side of the hatchway. Strong iron or wooden boxes attached to these posts support the journal of a round shaft one foot in diameter, upon which is a wooden wheel four to six feet in diameter. The larger size gives increased power, but for ordinary lifting four feet is large enough. The wheel is made of eight segments cut from two-inch plank, each one being a quarter of a circle. They are put together with spikes or bolts in a manner to "break joints." Before being fastened together the segments are notched to receive the ends of the four arms, which are also made of two-inch plank, halved together at the center of the wheel. The short end of the shaft, as far as the wheel goes on, is shaped to fit the square hole in the center of the wheel. Long iron spikes are driven and a groove turned in the outer periphery of the wheel to keep the rope from slipping off. The hoist rope is firmly attached to the shaft upon which it is coiled by the revolution of the wheel.

**PORTLAND MARKET REPORT.**

**GROCERIES—Sugars.** We quote Golden C 5c, extra C 5c, confectioners A 5c, granulated 6c, cube, crushed and powdered 7c. Coffee's Java 15c, Rio 20c, Arbuckle's roasted 24c.

**PROVISIONS—Oregon hams are quoted at 12c 13c, breakfast bacon 13c, Eastern meat quoted as follows: Hams 1 1/2c 1 3/4c, Sincars 1 1/4c, Oregon breakfast 13c 14c, Eastern 13c 14c.**

**FRUITS—Apples 8c 10c, California oranges 8 1/2c 9c, lemons 9c, bananas 8 1/2c 4-50.**

**VEGETABLES—Cabbage 9c per lb, celery 8c 8 1/2c, per doz bunches, carrots and turnips 5c per sack, onions 7c 7 1/2c, potatoes 3c 4c per sack.**

**DRIED FRUITS—Sun-dried apples 5c, slice 6c, Oregon prunes 6c 7c, Italian 9c, California French 8c 10c, peaches 8c 10c pears 8c. Calif. raisins 1 1/2c, California raisins 1 1/2c 2c per box.**

**DAIRY PRODUCE—Oregon creamery and choice dairy 25c, medium 20c, California fancy 25c, choice dairy 2c.**

**EGGS—Oregon 25c.**  
**POULTRY—Chickens \$3, ducks \$7.50, geese \$10, turkeys 14c.**

**WOOL—Valley 18c 20c, Eastern Oregon 8c 15c.**  
**HOPS—Choice 8c 14c.**  
**GRAIN—Valley \$1.97 1.30, Eastern Oregon \$1.22 1.35, Oat 32c 33c.**

**F. OUR—Standard \$4.50, other brands \$4.**  
**FRESH MEATS—Beef, live, 3c 3 1/2c, dressed 7c, mutton, live, 3 1/2c 4c, dressed 7c, lambs \$2.50 each, hogs, live, 5 1/2c 6c, dressed 7c 7 1/2c, veal 6c 8c.**

**RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.**

—Good intentions are, at least, the seed of good actions; and every man ought to sow them.—*Sir W. Temple.*

—It is estimated there are now in Europe, Asia, the United States and Canada about fifty institutions for the education of feeble-minded children.

—No man in daily life ought to be satisfied with what his life now is. He ought every day to be looking forward to some of the possible improvements.—*E. E. Hale.*

—It is easy to slip into a state of spiritual coldness and indifference. The temptation to it is one that is always with us. Once in it, how hard to get out of it!—*United Presbyterian.*

—Rockford Seminary, at Rockford, Ill., has established night schools for the working girls of the city. The faculty will oversee the work, and the students of the seminary will assist in the teaching.

—I still believe that life is the most frivolous of things, unless it is regarded as one great and constant duty. Life is only of value by devotion to what is true and good. The aim of a life worth living should be ideal and unselfish.—*Ernest Renan.*

—An aged man, who had lived more than threescore years and ten, upon being informed by his physicians that he had but a few hours to live, replied: "Is that so? Then death has come too soon for me. I am not ready for it." What a melancholy confession with which to close up this life, and enter upon the realities of the one to come!—*N. Y. Independent.*

—"For general improvement," says Dr. Johnson, "a man should read whatever his immediate inclination prompts him to; though, to be sure, if a man has a science to learn, he must regularly and resolutely advance. What we read with inclination makes a stronger impression. If we read without inclination, half the mind is employed in fixing the attention, so there is but half to be employed on what we read."

—President Adams, of Cornell University, in a recent address advised students "not to rely on professors to do your work. Don't lessen individual effort. Herein is the success of self-made men. The men whom the world wants are those who do better than is expected of them. Sometimes they are without a college education; are such men as Franklin and Lincoln, who get a real liberal education and become monarchs in the domain of thought."

—Were we as eloquent as angels, yet should we please some men, some women and some children much more by listening than by talking.—*Colton.*

—It's bettah ter hab a green patch on de basement o' yo yaller pants dan ter sport seven dollar trowsers an' hab ter do de sneak act'ebry time yo see yo tallor.—*Uncle Pete.*

—It is by plodding steadily along, day in and day out, that we achieve our success. They who make their gains otherwise are eccentricities, and not fit, therefore, to be taken as examples.

—Against parsimony and nigardness I proclaim war; but with the same sentence I condemn those who make a grand splash while they live, leaving their families in destitution when they die.—*Talmage.*

—If ridicule were employed to laugh men out of vice and folly, it might be of some use; but it is made use of to laugh men out of virtue and good sense, by attacking every thing solemn and serious.—*Addison.*

—There is nothing more disappointing to the generous man than the way in which his absolute frankness is met by the man of the world, always looking out for motives, and imagining them where he does not find them.—*Donald Grant.*

The door and sash factory at San Quentin has been ordered to close after March 1.

The Territorial bill is still held in abeyance.

George Heidel, a young farmer, disguised as a ghost, stepped from the roadside in front of Wm. Tompkins, colored, who was returning from the woods with an ax on his shoulder, near Evansville, Ind., last week, and the frightened negro, with a terrific blow of the ax, cut Heidel's head completely in two.