

THE OREGON SCOUT

JONES & CHANCEY, - Publishers
UNION OREGON.

SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS.

A Publisher Tells How They Are Introduced to the Public.
What class of books do you find sells the best?
Well, it has been the result of our experience that the American people are at heart religious. If they're not religious they're religiously inclined. And no book we handle, be it our own publication or the publication of some one else which we sell on commission, sells like the book that has a religious coloring. This seems rather strange when we hear so much about American irreverence, but it's a fact. Then, again, we're a patriotic people, and books about popular military leaders or Presidents or Presidents' wives are acceptable and find ready sale.

"Isn't there immense profit in subscription books?"

"Not so much as you would imagine from the price of the books. Subscription books are high-priced and many of them are not so well gotten up as the books in the trade. But, you see, we send the books out over the highways and byways to the people. And the agents, whose work isn't the most enviable in the world, have to be paid enormously. As a matter of fact, the publisher of many a subscription book doesn't realize as much per copy as do the publishers who simply put their goods on the trade. But what we lose one way we make up another. For instance, our sales of a book are much greater than though we simply put it on the market and trusted to the merit of the book to sell it. Merit cuts little figure in a subscription book; it's the push of agents. Besides, the lapse of time makes little difference; the subscription book, as a rule, is rarely seen out of a private house, is rarely discussed in newspapers, and is just as good for selling ten years from the date of the first issue as at first. Besides it is possible to run a very profitable subscription-book business on comparatively small capital—that is, when you have but one or two books. In the trade it is different. There a man wants quite a large catalogue, and it all means money. I don't think I am far from the truth when I say that Harper Brothers have \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000 bound up in stereotyped plates alone, to say nothing about copyrights, royalties, dead stock and the like."

"Your prices, I suppose, are a purely arbitrary matter?"

"Not so much with us as with the publishers for the trade. At the bookstores the prices—\$1, \$1.25, \$1.50 or \$2—are almost wholly conventional prices, irrespective of what the book actually costs to manufacture. We reckon about four times the actual cost of the book to be about the selling price. Our prices, of course, are more or less manipulated by agents.

A subscription book which in the neighborhood of Chicago—we never expect city patronage—sells for \$3 is sold on the Pacific coast at \$5 and in Australia at \$7 or \$8. But that extra money the agents pocket. Oh, my! yes, lots of our subscription books go to Australia. It will be many a long year before the West is as bookish as the East, and till it is, though bookagents may be regarded as a nuisance, the subscription-book trade will thrive."—Chicago News.

Ague in the Water.

In all districts where water is drained through a large amount of vegetable matter, especially where the lands have been recently brought under cultivation, fever and ague and other intermittent fevers are likely to be generated, and the germs of disease are generally taken into the system through the medium of water. But if those unacclimated would take the precaution to drink only water that has been boiled, they would very seldom take these fevers. At a heat of 212 degrees or the boiling point, these germs in the water are killed, and the water then becomes harmless. The writer, some eighteen years since, was required to travel through and tarry some time in the ague districts of Michigan and Illinois. After spending a few days in the former State he began to feel the effects of drinking the water, and then adopted the plan of drinking only weak tea. This was the only effective means of obtaining well-boiled water, as tea is never made except with boiling water. After ceasing to drink water except with tea, he traveled through and spent several months in some of the worst districts of Illinois, and was entirely free from any symptoms of ague or other ill effects from the water of the various miasmatic localities which had been boiled. He also has known several cases of persons who have entirely escaped the dangers of acclimation by adopting this plan of using only boiled water.—Country Gentleman.

An editor in this country does not have to saw wood, but he carries coal, makes paste, attends all the meetings, reads a lot of trash to get a little news, does job printing, runs the hand press, runs errands, sweeps out once a month, makes out bills once a month and then makes them out over again next month and smiles sweetly on the man who threatens to kill him on sight. Then there are some editors who "rush the growler," "deal," "buck tiger," get drunk, stay drunk and let all of the before mentioned duties go to thunder.—Rising Sun Independent.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

PORTLAND'S BIG EXPOSITION WAS OPENED LAST WEEK.

Bakersfield's Improvements—Chopped His Own Finger Off—Port Orchard Selected for the New Navy Yard—Skull Fracture.

Elinor, Cal., is trying to disincorporate.

Epizooty is afflicting horses at Carson City.

Chico, Cal., has 644 children at public schools.

Santa Cruz has a 13-months-old baby swimmer.

A Jockey Club is soon to be organized at Portland.

A shoe factory has been established at Otay, Cal.

Tacoma has one lawyer to every 150 of its population.

A dressed beef company has been incorporated at Portland.

The Oregon Baptist Conference met at Ellensburg on the 26th.

The Sacramento police have received no salary for six months.

A heavy rain has extinguished the fires in the Willamette Valley.

Ground is broken at Santa Ana for the \$100,000 water-works system.

The sports of Albuquerque have been bled by an unknown sprinter.

The Northwest Exposition Company has been incorporated at Tacoma.

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J. H. Hoffman has been arrested at Portland, Or., for passing forged checks.

President Harrison has appointed A. G. Gilbert the Postmaster at Salem, Or.

Ellensburg's prospects for securing the State Capitol of Washington are flattering.

George Young has been arrested for the murder of Charles Beach at Prescott, A. T.

A majority of the waiters in the Pacific Ocean House, Santa Cruz are out on a strike.

The women of Ogden are reported to be organizing and burning disreputable houses.

The apricot and peach crops of San Bernardino Valley will bring \$150,000 this year.

Arthur H. Ferguson, a surveyor at Los Angeles, was drowned at Rodondo Beach on the 22d.

The Northern Pacific Reduction Company is building sampling works at Spokane Falls.

The school for the blind opened at Salem, Or., on the 26th, the beginning of the new term.

The remains of James O'Connor was found floating in the Willamette at Portland, on the 26th.

The City of Puebla has just made the run from San Francisco to Victoria, B. C., in fifty-one hours.

Harry Shirley, who was well known in musical and dramatic circles, died at San Diego on the 22d.

The African Methodist Episcopal Conference of California has concluded its labors at San Jose.

Dr. A. W. Hoisholt has been chosen assistant physician of the State Insane Asylum at Stockton.

A sailor on the Mary Buhne was washed overboard and drowned at Eureka, Cal., on the 23d.

Henry Williamson has been arrested and charged with robbing the Forest Hill stage a few weeks ago.

A political tournament took place at Seattle last Saturday between six of the leading lights of both parties.

Prince Bismarck's malady of inflamed veins of the legs does not abate. He has aged 69, and for many years one of the leading politicians in Nevada county, is dead.

The Brotherhood of Railroad Conductors has concluded its labors at Los Angeles and will meet in Toledo, Ohio, next year.

Bakersfield has nearly thirty brick buildings finished and in course of erection since the place was burned up a few months ago.

Thirty thousand out of the 40,000 people in Jerusalem are Hebrews, and the Israelites bid fair to again become the predominant people in Palestine.

The cable railway company at Spokane Falls has consummated the purchase of all the horse railways in that city, together with their franchises.

Portland authorities have been trying to put a stop to the daily parades of the Salvation Army, but so far have failed. The law is not strong enough.

There is trouble between the superintendent and the men at the San Pedro, N. M., copper mine, owing to an order that none but Italians should be employed.

Mason Smith, a young and prominent merchant of Spokane Falls, received a skull-fracture by a fall from a horse recently. Mr. Smith's recovery is very doubtful.

John Snell, a negro convict in the Oregon Penitentiary, placed his left hand on a board and with a hatchet cut off the third and middle finger. He did it to avoid work.

Detectives in Utah had just made a strong case of train robbery against a man named Curtiss, when the real offenders, Joseph Nay and Ed. Dayton, made a confession exonerating him.

Tommy Warren of Los Angeles, and Frank Murphy of England, fought fifty-eight rounds at the rooms of the California Athletic Club on the 24th. The referee refused to make a decision.

Carson Valley ranchers are endeavoring to compromise with the Union Mill and Mining Company over the right to the waters of the Carson river. If they fall they intend to fight the company.

FOREIGN FLASHES.

The Sultan's Edict—A Vessel Wrecked—Many Christians Cast into Prison on the Cotton Ring.

Thomas A. Edison is in London. Guyaquin prohibits Chinese immigration.

A Spanish squadron has reached Tangier.

A snow and half storm in Scotland is reported.

King Menelek now rules over all Abyssinia.

Apples are rather scarce in England this season.

The stevedores at the East India docks, London, are at work.

The death is announced at London of Farnie, the librettist.

The United States war-ship Enterprise is at Inverary, Scotland.

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It is reported that Count Schonvaloff, the Russian Ambassador at Berlin, has been appointed Governor of the Caucasus.

The body of a wealthy Londoner named Wedon has been exhumed at the instance of his brothers, who suspected poisoning.

Cardinal Schiaffino is dead at Rome. He was born in 1829 and was made a cardinal in 1885.

The awards of the various committees of the Paris Exposition will be announced on September 29th.

The anniversary of the occupation of Rome by Victor Emanuel was celebrated recently at the Eternal City.

The Russian Government has issued a decree prohibiting the purchasing of cattle by German merchants.

The Silverton Telegraph Works at London has locked out 2,000 men who demanded an advance of wages.

Miss Anita McCormick and Emmons Blaine were married at Richfield Springs, N. Y., on the 25th inst.

Many survivors of the abolition movement participated in the Emancipation Day celebration at Boston.

There is only one colored member of congress. His name is Cheatham, and he hails from North Carolina.

"Rattlesnake Pete," an Oii City character, has sold a snake skin for \$6 to a man who will use it as a necklace.

It is thought that New York's efforts to secure the Exposition of 1892 will receive but little support in congress.

Mayor Noonan of St. Louis has made the temporary suspension of his private secretary, C. E. Meade, permanent.

It is generally believed in Washington that Major Warner has accepted the position of Commissioner of Pensions.

Senator Wade Hampton wants the United States to expend \$50,000,000 in colonizing the colored people in Cuba.

Governor David B. Hill, of New York, is advertised as one of the attractions of the fair to be held in Atlanta next month.

Old documents found in a Mexican church lead to the hope that the long-lost mines of that country may be rediscovered.

It has been discovered that the city of Cincinnati owns nearly \$1,000,000 of real estate, of which all knowledge had been forgotten.

Chicago's great public building, the Auditorium, is nearing completion, and is expected to be ready for a grand opening December 5.

The resignation of Dr. James P. Kimball as Director of the Mint, has been accepted, and it is believed Edward O. Leech will succeed him.

There is a movement in Michigan to have the national flag displayed on all school houses in the State, and Governor Luce heartily endorses it.

It is estimated that 80,000 Americans who have visited Europe this season have paid to the companies for passage both ways upward of \$14,000,000.

Six or more custom houses are to be established on the Canadian side of the international boundary between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains.

There was an explosion of gas in one of the coal mines at Dayton, Tenn., on the 23d, and nine miners were frightened, burned, several of whom will die.

There is belief among naval officers that the Baltimore can make faster time at Newport than her record shows, and a trial will probably be given there.

Samuel Murray, a laborer at Louisiana, Mo., made an attack upon his son John, aged 13, years, took part and shot his father dead.

There is too large a sentiment in opposition to the use of Central Park for the World's Fair at New York, and the move looking to that site is being abandoned.

An attempt was made recently to wreck the Wisconsin Central passenger train, but a party of hunters discovered and removed the obstructions in time to prevent it.

Chicago newspapers are gathering

from replies to inquiries regarding preferences for the location of the World's Fair. The lumber interest has declared in favor of Chicago.

EASTERN ITEMS.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN SUED FOR A DIVORCE.