

ALONG THE COAST.

Items of General Interest Gleaned From the Thriving Pacific States.

Railroad Extension. Considerable excitement prevails from Lakeway, Lake county, Oregon, all along the line to Reno, Nev., owing to the recent authenticated report of the extension of the Nevada & California railroad from Amedu, Cal., north. The news of the purchase of over 8,000 tons of steel rails in New York by the owners of this road was sent out last week, and the material will be shipped immediately to Amedu, preparatory to beginning of extension work in the spring. This is a narrow-gauge road now terminating at Amedu, and it is concluded that the next terminus will be Van Lona, 65 miles north, and nearly crossing over to the former, the line plains. It will place Lakeway within 105 miles of railroad transportation, and will make a considerable difference in stock shipping, freighting and passenger travel. The object of the proposed extension is to head off the Southern Pacific Company, which is now extending its line from Upton through the great McCloud timber belt to Fall River.

Speedy Mail Carriers. All records of ice travel on the Yukon have been broken by the recent feat of the mounted police of the Northwest territory in bringing a big shipment of mail from Dawson to Skagway in nine days and 10 hours. The mail left Dawson on the morning of January 15 and was in Skagway before noon on January 31. The record was made by the Canadian officials, it is said, to show that they could greatly reduce the time being made by the United States mail contractors.

Big Sale of Wheat. With the sale of about 500,000 bushels of wheat on a basis of 50 cents for No. 1 club, net, to the farmers, the wheat market has taken on a quieter tone at Pendleton, Or., and no sales are being recorded. The distribution of \$250,000 of ready money in this community has given considerable impetus to retail business, which had become somewhat stagnant from the failure of the producers to realize either on wheat or wool.

Schooner Sander Labeled. The schooner Fred E. Sander, at the Tacoma mill loading lumber for Vallejo Junction, has been labeled by James Gillespie, formerly a cook on her, for \$318. The suit was brought while the ship was on the lower Sound. The case will be heard in Seattle. Since coming to Tacoma the captain and all of the crew who were in her before, with the exception of a Mexican, who speaks no English, have left her.

Farming Operations Resumed. Farming operations are in active progress in the country south and west of Colfax, Wash., and last week hundreds of acres were plowed for spring seeding. Farmers in the Alkali flat country are seeding, and many are well along with sowing their spring grain. Squabblers are out by hundreds, the country bears the marks of spring, the hills are becoming green, and farmers are busy with their spring work.

A Girl Attacked. On Sunday, an unknown man attacked the 14-year-old daughter of O. I. Morris, of Turner, Or., while she was in a stubble field, rounding up cows. The man jumped from behind a clump of brush, threw the girl on the ground, took off one of her shoes and ordered her to skip. Mr. Morris heard the screams of his daughter, and ran to her rescue, but the assailant was nowhere to be found.

No Hids Received. The steamship City of Columbia was put up for sale at San Francisco at the net price of \$32,000. There was no purchaser. The police department will now endorse the petition of the seamen of the Columbia that the vessel be put up for as much as she will bring. The sailors of the vessel are really in a very bad shape. Most of them have not a cent, and have not possessed a dollar in weeks.

Overhauling a Nail Plant. The report published in the Port Townsend Leader a few days ago to the effect that the nail works plant was being wrecked for the purpose of shipping the machinery elsewhere, was a mistake. It originated from the fact that several workmen were busy engaged in overhauling the machinery. When the plant will resume work has not been definitely settled.

Income From Claims. According to the Astorian, C. N. Carnahan, as a result of a personal investigation of the subject, finds that the estimate of value of the clam product of Clatsop county contained in Fish Commissioner McGuire's report is wrong. Mr. McGuire puts the annual value of Clatsop county claims at \$900. Mr. Carnahan states that it is very close to \$10,000.

Boy Pirates at San Francisco. John Hallin and Arthur Daught have been arrested at San Francisco on a charge of stealing copper and brass from the Mare island navy-yard. They were formerly wreckers, but of late have been veritable bay pirates, using a whaleboat and a skiff to commit their depredations.

General Land Office Reversed. In the case of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company against James B. Gaines, involving lands in the Walla Walla land district, Washington, the secretary has reversed the decision of the general land office, which held for cancellation the selection of the railroad company and allowed the application of Gaines to make homestead entry of the disputed tract. The company's right was prior and indisputable, and Gaines has been notified to transfer his claim to other lands.

Lien Claims Approved. Notice of the approval by the general land office of lien lands list No. 53, embracing 17,177.77 acres of swamp and overflowed lands in the Lakeview district, incurring to and selected by the state under an act of congress, approved March 2, 1860, has been received at the executive office of Oregon. The governor has asked for the immediate issuance of a patent.

Mrs. Victorian Blanchard, 56 years old, of Holyoke, Mass., is the youngest living daughter of a revolutionary soldier.

THE TRIBUTE DAY OF LIBERTY AND ENLIGHTENMENT.

New Railroad in China. A. W. Bash, who was formerly collector of customs on Puget sound, was the original promoter in China, of what gives promise of being a very important enterprise. The motive spirit now behind the scheme is Stewart M. Bliss. The matter includes valuable concessions for the American-China Development Company in the name of the China Railroad Company. The survey of the road is already in progress. The office of the new company is at Tacoma.

New Portland-Sound Line. W. H. Llewellyn and George Tiffany, two New York capitalists are at San Francisco. They are said to have come west on an important railroad deal. They have in view the building of a railroad from Portland to Tacoma and Seattle, a distance of 140 miles. Bonds have already been placed in New York to raise the necessary money for the construction of this road. It is common gossip that Llewellyn and Tiffany are agents for the Vanderbilts.

Cutting the Time. The time between Chicago and Omaha has been reduced to 12 hours on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. This is part of the overland limit, which is to reduce the time between Chicago and Portland to three days. The fastest time previously made between Chicago and Omaha on the Chicago & Northwestern was 13 hours and 35 minutes.

A Curious Accident. A curious accident occurred in an Albino, Or., home recently by which a little girl was dangerously wounded by a revolver. The mother found the revolver which she imagined was unloaded. For some reason or other she placed it in an old slipper. The little girl came in and gave this a kick causing the discharge of the revolver.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.
Onions, 85¢ @ 90¢ per 100 pounds.
Potatoes, \$15 @ 20.
Beets, per sack, 75c.
Turnips, per sack, 50¢ @ 75c.
Carrots, per sack, 45¢ @ 60c.
Parsnips, per sack, \$1.
Cauliflower, 60¢ @ 90¢ per doz.
Celery, 35¢ @ 40c.
Cabbage, native and California
\$1.25 per 100 pounds.
Apples, 35¢ @ 50¢ per box.
Pears, 50¢ @ \$1.50 per box.
Prunes, 50¢ per box.
Butter—Creamery, 26¢ per pound; dairy and ranch, 17¢ @ 20¢ per pound.
Eggs, 30c.
Cheese—Native, 12¢ @ 12½¢.
Poultry—Old hens, 14¢ per pound; spring chickens, 14¢; turkeys, 16c.
Fresh meats—Choice dressed beef steers, prime, 8¢; cows, prime, 7¢; mutton, 8¢; pork, 8¢; veal, 6¢ @ 8c.
Wheat—Feed wheat, \$23.
Oats—Choice, per ton, \$25.
Hay—Puguet Sound mixed, \$9.00 @ 11; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$15.
Corn—Whole, \$23.50; cracked, \$24; feed meal, \$23.50.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$25 @ 26; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.50; straight, \$3.25; California brands, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$3.50; graham, per barrel, \$3.60; whole wheat flour, \$3.75; rye flour, \$4.50.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14; shorts, per ton, \$16.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20 @ 22 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$17; oil cake meal, per ton, \$35.

Portland Market.
Wheat—Walla Walla, 55¢; Valley, 60¢; Bluffton, 61¢ per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.20; graham, \$3.65; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 41¢ @ 42¢; choice gray, 39¢ @ 40¢ per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$22 @ 23; brewing, \$23.50 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$18; chop, \$18.00 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9 @ 10; clover, \$7 @ 8; Oregon wild hay, \$6 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50¢ @ 55¢; seconds, 45¢ @ 50¢; dairy, 40¢ @ 45¢ per lb, 25¢ @ 30c.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 12½¢; Young America, 15c; new cheese, 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50 @ 4 per dozen; hens, \$4.00 @ 5.00; springs, \$1.25 @ 3; geese, \$6.00 @ 7.00 for old, \$4.50 @ 5 for young; ducks, \$5.00 @ 5.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 15¢ @ 1.50 per pound.
Potatoes—80¢ @ 90¢ per sack; sweets, 2c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, 90c; turnips, 75c per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, \$1 @ 1.25 per 100 pounds; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, 75c per sack; beans, 5c per pound; celery 70¢ @ 75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per piece; peas, 5¢ @ 5½¢ per pound.
Onions—Oregon, 75¢ @ \$1 per sack.
Hops—15 @ 18; 1897 crop, 4¢ @ 6c.
Wool—Valley, 10¢ @ 12c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8¢ @ 12c; mohair, 30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4c; dressed mutton, 7½¢; spring lambs, 7½¢ per lb.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.25; light and feeders, \$3.00 @ 4.00; dressed, \$5.00 @ 5.50 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, 3.50 @ \$3.75; cows, \$2.50 @ 3.00; dressed beef, 5¢ @ 5½¢ per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½¢ @ 7c; small, 7¢ @ 8c per pound.

San Francisco Market.
Wool—Spring—Nevada, 10¢ @ 12c per pound; Oregon, Eastern, 10¢ @ 12c; Valley, 15¢ @ 17c; Northern, 9¢ @ 11c.
Millstuffs—Middlings, \$21 @ 23.00; bran, \$18.00 @ 19.00 per ton.
Onions—Silverskin, 50¢ @ 90c per sack.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 28c; do seconds, 23¢ @ 24c; fancy dairy, 22c; do seconds, 17¢ @ 19c per pound.
Eggs—Store, 22¢ @ 24c; fancy ranch, 23¢ @ 25c.
Hops—1898 crop, 13¢ @ 17c.
Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$3 @ 3.50; Mexican limes, \$6 @ 6.50; California lemons, \$2.00 @ 3.00; do choice, \$2.50 @ 4.50, per box.
Hay—Wheat, \$14 @ 17; wheat and oat, \$13 @ 15; oat, \$14 @ 16; best barley, \$13 @ 14; alfalfa, \$12 @ 14 per ton; straw, 60¢ @ 75c per bale.
Potatoes—Early Rose, \$1.10 @ 1.15; Oregon Burbanks, 75¢ @ \$1.15; silver Earbanks, 75¢ @ \$1; Salinas Burbanks, \$1 @ 1.10 per sack.
Tropical fruits—Bananas, \$1.25 @ 2.50 per bunch; pineapples, \$2.50 @ 4.50; Persian dates, 6¢ @ 6½¢ per pound.



WIDOW DARBY'S VALENTINE.
HE widow Darby, fair, plump and looking far younger than her 45 years, had ridden into town with Jared Kent because her horse had lamed himself that morning, and Jared "happened to be going in," and had asked the widow to ride with him as the more comfortable in the eyes of the people of the neighborhood called a "regular born old bach." He had flouted and scorned womanhood most of the fifty years of his life, and had openly set forth his conviction that men were of the better of "em than with 'em," particularly when it came to "marrying of 'em." He had held to this conviction so long and so constantly that all of the match-makers in the rural neighborhood in which he lived had given him up as hopeless case beyond the pale of their schemes for making a benefit of him.

Jared was not, like most avowed women haters, a crabbed, cross-grained, sneeringly cynical man, which made his eccentricity all the more unendurable in the eyes of the match-makers. "He'd make a real good husband if he'd try," they said. "Then he has the nicest farm in the neighborhood, with one of the best houses on it and money out at interest, although he's a bit mean and stingy. He'll do his full share always for a neighbor in distress. It isn't because he's too stingy to support her that Jared doesn't get him a wife."

It was a clear, crisp morning in February when Jared rode to the village with the widow Darby seated beside him in his neat little cutter. The sleighing was fine and the air keen and exhilarating. It gave the widow's plump cheeks a beautiful crimson glow and made her black eyes sparkle. She was in high spirits and her laugh rang out frequently as merry and rippling as the laugh of a child. But then the widow Darby was proverbially cheery. She had suffered keenly the loss of her husband and both of her children, but time had softened her grief, and she was too wise to spend her life in gloom and grief over the loss of those who were beyond all care and sorrow. She had a comfortable little home and a few acres of land adjoining Jared Kent's. She had known Jared all of her life, but not once had she seen him as a possible successor to Joel Darby. "Jared will never marry any one," she had said. "He isn't of a marrying disposition. Some men are that way. It's all they lack to make 'em what God intended they should be. My husband and I used to talk Jared over a good deal, and we did our full share to get him settled for life with a good wife. We used to invite lots of nice girls, young and elderly both, to our house and then have Jared come over to tea and to play croquet with him. He'd be nice and pleasant and all that, but never came any ways near falling into any of the traps we set for him. We thought once that he did take a kind of a shine to a nice, sweet, real good looking girl of about 30 named Janet Deane from over Shelby way, but she was visiting us. She'd made him an awful good wife, and I sung her praises all the time, but nothing came of it."

"It's an elegant morning, isn't it?" said Jared, as he and the widow flew along over the hills and through long lanes in which the snow was drifted almost to the top rails of the fences. "Oh, it's lovely!" replied the widow. "I like snow. You got much to do in town?" "No; I'll be through with all of my errands in an hour. I can let something go if you don't want to stay in town that long."

"Oh, that'll be none too long for me. Where shall I meet you?" "I'll be at Smith & Hanscom's dry goods store, any time you see."

"We'll call it 11 o'clock, then."

It was three minutes after 11 when Jared drove up to the appointed place of meeting. The widow had stepped into the sleigh and he was tucking the robes in around her when she said: "There, Jared, I'm just like other women; I've forgotten something."

"What is it?" "I forgot to go around to the postoffice. I know that there's nothing there for me, because one of the Stone boys brought my mail out last night, and there's no mail trains in until noon; but poor old Jane Carr came over just before I left and wanted me to be sure and see if there was a letter for her. Her daughter is very sick out West, and she hasn't had a letter for a week, and she's half wild. I couldn't bear to tell her I'd forgotten to go to the office."

"I'll drive 'round that way," said Jared. "It won't be three blocks out of the way."

Two or three boys stood idling in front of the postoffice and Jared said to one of them he chanced to know: "Say, Jimmie, run into the office and see if there's any letter for Mrs. Jane Carr. You needn't ask for me, for I've been around and got my mail."

looked at the big white, embossed envelope. The boy had told the truth when he had gone back to his comrades and said with a titter: "She's got a valentine!" "Who in the land ever sent me that thing?" said Mrs. Darby, holding the envelope out at arm's length. "I didn't even know it was Valentine's day. If it isn't the greatest idea that I should get a valentine!" "I don't know why you shouldn't," said Jared. "Oh, because I—but I guess some child sent it."

"Maybe not." "No one else could have had so little gumption!" said the widow with another laugh. "Maybe there's one of these comic valentines inside of it—some ridiculous thing about a widow like you."

"Why don't you open it and see?" "I will." She burst into another laugh as she drew forth a dainty creation of lace paper, tinted and bright colored embossed pictures.

"How perfectly ridiculous!" she said. "The idea of any one being silly enough to send an old woman like me a thing like that!" "You're not an old woman."

"I'm forty-five!" "Well, I'm older than that, and I don't call myself an old man. Many a woman around here would be glad to get a valentine like that if the sender really meant it."

"Yes, and if you were the sender." "I'm not vain enough to think that and not foolish enough to say it if I did think it."

"No, I don't think that you are, Jared. But I wonder who could have sent me this. The writing on the envelope is evidently disguised, and—O here is something inside! Let's see what it says."

"O wit thou be my valentine Forever and forever aye, And wilt thou take this heart of mine, And give me thine to-day?"

There was another verse, but before she had read it, the widow Darby cried out: "Jared Kent, that's your handwriting and you need not try to deny it!" "I'm not trying to deny it. You'll find my name signed in full to the next verso on the other page." This was the next verse:

"If yes my answer is to be, My heart with joy will fill, If 'no' I yet shall be your friend, And I shall love you still."

They had reached the outskirts of the town now. Jared brought the horse to a standstill and said: "Is it yes or no, Lucy?" "Is it yes or no, Lucy?" She looked at him with shining eyes and laughing face for a moment. Then she laid one of her mittened hands on the sleeve of the great fur coat he wore and said: "I think it is yes, Jared."

He turned his horse's head toward the town. "Where are you going?" she asked. "Back to the minister's. It's Valentine's day, you know, and if you are to be my valentine, I want you today."

As an hour later they stopped at Jane Carr's gate. She came skurrying out for her letter with her apron over her head. "I brought you a letter, Jane, and I got a valentine," said Lucy, holding up the big white envelope. "I got one also," said Jared, as he put

an arm around his wife and kissed her.—Detroit Free Press.

WANTED HIS HALF OF THE BERTH.
A Good Story Geo. M. Pullman Loved to Tell of Lincoln.

There was one story of his career that the late George M. Pullman of sleeping car fame used to tell with manifest delight. It was as follows: "One night going out of Chicago, a long, lean, ugly man, with a wart on his cheek, came into the depot. He paid George M. Pullman 50 cents, and a half berth was assigned him. Then he took off his coat and vest and hung them up, and the; fitted the peg about as well as they fitted him. Then he kicked off his boots, which were of surprising length, turned into the berth, and, having an easy conscience, was sleeping like a healthy baby before the other passenger and paid his 50 cents. In two minutes he was back at George Pullman's side, and a half berth was assigned him. Then he took off his coat and vest and hung them up, and the; fitted the peg about as well as they fitted him. 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