

TO BUY COAL FIELDS.

O. R. & N. Will Probably Purchase Heppner Mines.

The O. R. & N. will probably acquire the Heppner coal fields. The railroad sent a coal expert, Dr. M. Schumann, to the properties about ten days ago. The expert has finished his investigations, and is preparing his report. He will recommend the coal as of excellent steaming quality and of practically unlimited quantity.

President Mohler will not return from the East for a month yet, and meantime the transaction will be held in abeyance. C. E. Redfield, secretary of the Heppner Railroad & Coal Company, owners of the coal deposits, is in Portland, says the Oregonian. He is sure that the O. R. & N. will go into the enterprise.

"Mr. Mohler has said to me," remarked Mr. Redfield, "that his company will certainly take up the project if we have the quality and quantity of coal we represent. The O. R. & N's expert has found our judgment of the deposits to have been conservative, and will extol them more than we have done."

"Our deposits are confined within an area of 45,000 acres, 13 miles long and four or five miles wide. We have three veins of coal, which will supply 1500 tons of coal daily for 100 years. We can mine the coal for \$1.25 a ton, and lay it down at Portland for less than \$3. The O. R. & N. has found it to be the best coal it has ever used."

A month ago the O. R. & N. tested 10 tons between Portland and The Dalles. The locomotive hauled 65 cars from Portland and burned 700 pounds less of the Heppner coal than it would have consumed of the Wyoming coal regularly used on the road on a train of 60 cars.

"Coal now costs the O. R. & N., went on Mr. Redfield, between \$5 and \$6 per ton. We can supply the road at \$2 or \$2.50 per ton, and save the company \$2,000,000 per year. That's what Mr. Mohler told us. His road burns 500,000 tons a year."

"Now that test is indisputable proof of the steaming quality of our coal. It has convinced Mr. Mohler, and I have not the slightest doubt that he will enlist the O. R. & N. in our project."

Dr. Schumann testified last night that the Heppner coal is superior to any in the Northwest. Just what he intended to say in his report he would not divulge, but he admitted that he would highly recommend the coal.

The properties are about 21 miles south of Heppner. They will be reached by extending the O. R. & N. up Willow Creek. The extension will cost about \$250,000. The owners of the coal beds have already spent \$130,000 in development of the properties. None of the stock of the company is for sale.

Mr. Redfield would not discuss the probable terms on which the O. R. & N. would join the enterprise. He has full confidence that the railroad company will be unselfish in the matter, owing to the large sums of money which it will save from the venture.

Dr. Schumann estimates that one of the three veins will yield 1500 tons a day for 30 years. The O. R. & N. desires assurance that 200 tons a day can be secured from the properties, and has stated this as one of the conditions. Such a supply is undoubtedly available.

Building Irrigating Ditch.

Echo, Or., Dec. 4.—Rapid progress is being made on the 20 mile irrigation ditch under construction through the district southwest of here. It taps the Umatilla river a short distance below Echo. A portion of the old Hunt ditch which has been untouched for a number of years, may be used. That is the present intention, but it is rumored litigation may follow. The present work is on the repair of the old ditch.

The scheme is entirely that of the farmers of this district. They hope to expend about \$5000 before the work is completed. It is estimated that \$50,000

was spent on the old ditch at the time it was constructed. Sixty horses and 20 men are employed at present. The promoters believe they will complete the work by February 1.

It is estimated the new ditch will add 6000 more acres to the irrigated section. It is said 5000 acres are already under irrigation.

Just a few miles below here is one of the greatest alfalfa meadows of the west. Through the large crops raised on it the section has become known as the "Echo Alfalfa Meadows." The alfalfa crops raised this year were unusually large, and haystacks can be seen thickly dotted over the district. That portion of the district is a great cattle country, and large bands of stock will be fed there this winter. The soil, with sufficient water, is highly productive.

Cuba Must Make Big Loan.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Herbert C. Squiers, United States minister to Cuba, called at the state department today to discuss the Cuban situation with Secretary Hay. President Palma is striving to adjust the claims of the veterans of the Cuban army for back pay, but is confronted with an enormous increase in the amount of these claims. Originally these claims were about \$10,000,000, but have now increased to \$52,000,000. In addition, the civilians who were employed by the revolutionary government before Cuban independence was achieved have united to present their claims for compensation, the allowance of which would increase the total amount which the Cuban government must borrow to at least \$75,000,000.

The committee which was appointed to float a loan of \$35,000,000 has returned to Havana, and is now seeking to modify the conditions of the loan to make it acceptable to New York and European financiers, mainly in the direction of increasing the interest from 5 per cent to about 6 or 7 per cent, or of lowering below the .90 per cent the proposed amount for which the bonds were to be placed on the market.

LOCAL MARKETS.

Heppner Quotations on Staples Bought and Sold Here.

RETAIL GROCERY PRICES.

COFFEE—Mocha and Java, best 40c per pound; next grade, 35c per pound; package coffee, Lion and Arbuckle, 12½c per pound.

RICE—Best head rice 10c per pound; next grade 8 cents per pound.

SUGAR—Cane granulated, best \$6 50 per sack; do 13 pounds \$1.

SALT—Coarse \$1 per 100; 85c 50 pounds.

FLOUR—\$4 25@\$5 per barrel.

BACON—16@18c per pound.

HAMS—17@18c per pound.

COAL OIL—\$1 50@\$1 65 for 5 gallons; \$3 25 per case.

VEGETABLES.

POTATOES—1c per pound.

California sweet potatoes 4c per pound.

CABBAGE—2½c per pound.

ONIONS—2½c per pound.

FRUITS.

BANANAS—40c per dozen.

APPLES—2c per pound.

LEMONS—30c per dozen.

ORANGES—40c@50c per dozen.

CRANBERRIES—25c per quart.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.

Prices paid by dealer to the producer. CHICKENS—\$3 50 per dozen.

BUTTER—Fancy creamery, 65c per roll; ranch, 60c per roll.

BEEF CATTLE, ETC.

COWS—\$2 50 per hundred.

STEERS—\$3 per hundred.

HOGS—Live, 5c; dressed, 8c per pound.

VEAL—Dressed, 6c per pound.

SHEEP—\$1 50@\$2 50.

HAY AND FEED.

CHOPPED BARLEY—\$27 50 per ton

Mrs. Minnie Bayley, wife of Rev. Alfred Bayley, for several years pastor of the Fourth Congregational church of San Francisco, has secured a divorce on the grounds of incompatibility of temper.

RENTING STUFFED ANIMALS.

Merchants in the City Use Them to Make a Display in the Holiday Season.

The trade in stuffed animals gets brisker with the approach of the holiday season. "I don't mean by that," said a William street taxidermist, according to the New York Times, "that we are selling more of them. We are not. We never do sell stuffed beasts in herds at this time of the year, but our renting list swells prodigiously. People whose business requires them to use stuffed animals and birds as an advertisement generally want an extra duck or dog or bear added to their stock for a month or two preceding and following Christmas. A trademark of this kind of good quality costs anywhere from \$5 to \$75 and as those that are used merely as 'supers' are needed only a few months in the year, it is cheaper to rent them than buy them outright. Almost every merchant in town, of high or low degree, makes an extra splurge at this season by exhibiting a pole bear or some other festive animal, consequently our rentals amount to a rather nice income. Some seasons we do a pretty thriving business with theatrical companies, also, but this year the drama seems to have become too realistic to rely on stuffed art for its effects, and our orders for property fowls and quadrupeds have been few."

A DIET OF WOOD.

German Chemist Invents an Animal Fodder with Sawdust as Principal Ingredient.

Wood is to be the newest food, says Heinrich Reh, a professor of chemistry in Berlin. He has secured a patent upon a form of animal fodder which has sawdust as its chief ingredient, says a London report.

He argues that animals have a decided liking for young shoots, roots of shrubs, tree bark and other heavy food of the same nature, and, since experiments have proved that the nutrient contained in such growth remains in it even after it has become wood, he observes that with a little salt and water added to it the sawdust will prove to be a highly nourishing diet.

He has statistics to prove it. Pine, birch, alder, acacia, beech and walnut woods and straws have been analyzed chemically by him and he finds that the wood has vastly more albumen, nitrogen and fatty substance than the straw.

The inventor claims that "a very cheap cattle food can be prepared in this manner, to which may be added potato peelings, corn husks and shells of grain and the residue from the sugar beet after the sugar has been extracted."

SHE WAS SHY ONE TURK.

Protest of an Audience Against Bernhardt's Loss of a Servant.

Sarah Bernhardt was once playing at Marseilles in a spectacular play in which she made her entrance accompanied by six Turkish slaves. A line on the programme announced that these six Turks would accompany Mme. Bernhardt, but when the time came for them to go on one of the youngsters had disappeared. Sarah mustered the five in order, says the New York Evening Sun, and made her entrance with a grand flourish. The house was crowded, but not a handclap greeted her as she appeared. Then a still, small voice in the gallery murmured something in an indignant tone. Fifty voices immediately took up the strain, and in ten seconds more the whole house was shouting the same phrase. Bernhardt strained every nerve to catch what they were complaining about. She knew the phrase began with "Manque," but the rest of it was lost in the general hubbub. For a full minute the tumult continued. Then Sarah, muttering things below her breath, rushed like a fury down to the footlights. In the front row the actress had spotted one man who was not taking part in the hullabaloo. Pointing at him, the actress exclaimed, sternly: "You seem to be the only sensible person in this house. Tell me what on earth they are kicking up this row for?" The man rose, bowed to the actress, and remarked, in very bad American-French: "Madam, you are shy one Turk."

The Egyptian Afterglow.

We all know what "Egyptian darkness" is, and that in most tropical countries sudden darkness after sundown is one of the peculiarities. In Egypt at certain seasons of the year there is a marked exception to this sudden "drawing of the curtains of the skies." The sun goes down and darkness comes on very suddenly and continues for a space of 20 minutes or half an hour. Then, all of a sudden, the hills and sands take on a ghastly paleness and in another moment everything begins to brighten, and it appears that the sun is about to rise out of the west. These tints of golden, purple, orange and lilac attain their maximum degree of brightness in about ten minutes after they begin, and in 20 minutes everything has faded into darkness and you are only conscious of the fact that you have just witnessed the phenomenon known as the "Egyptian afterglow."

SOAP AND WATER DOES NOT REMOVE ALL THE IMPURITIES.

The New York Herald's European Edition Reports Some Interesting Experiments of M. Lauenstein, a Hamburg Physician, upon the Disinfection of the Skin.

It is generally supposed that a little soap and water will remove all impurities from the skin. Experiments of M. Lauenstein, a Hamburg physician, upon the disinfection of the skin, show that it is not so simple a matter as it is generally supposed to be.

In 147 experiments he moved a small piece of skin, 1 centimeter square, from the arm of a patient, and washed it with water, alcohol, ether, and carbolic acid. The skin was then examined under a microscope, and it was found that it contained a large number of germs.

The results of the experiments were as follows: 1. Soap and water did not remove all the germs. 2. Alcohol did not remove all the germs. 3. Ether did not remove all the germs. 4. Carbolic acid did not remove all the germs.

As a result of these experiments, M. Lauenstein has concluded that it is far preferable not to use any of these substances, but to use a fresh antiseptic dressing—as the only security against fresh microbial contamination.

THE CHINESE AND OPIUM.

One Writer Thinks They Smoke to Kill the Monotony of Existence.

May it not be from sheer weariness and want of something to do that many Chinese take to the opium pipe? In most places in China organized gambling is forbidden. With the exception of an occasional game at shuttlecocks or kite-flying—only at fixed seasons—there are no outdoor sports. The Chinese rarely walk for pleasure. Interiors are comfortable. There is no social intercourse between respectable men and women. There is not sufficient house room, privacy or light for reading after dark. How is time to be killed? I think, says a writer in Blackwood's Magazine, that the monotony of existence may be one of the chief causes of opium smoking.

On the whole, though at Canton I was in contact with opium smokers almost daily, and made a point of seeing as much as possible of the native life, the seamy side of opium smoking did not obtrude itself much upon me. Just as in an English coast town one may daily see the flaring light of the gin palace, the besotted faces of occasional loafers, the bedraggled garments, and infer therefrom great misery behind it all, so one might fairly infer great misery from the spectacle of numerous opium dens, cadaverous faces and tattered garments in Canton, if one should see them, but I did not see them obtrusively, though I was daily poking my nose into all sorts of nooks and corners. Naturally, a medical missionary will see a great deal more of the seamy side. It is his business.

BULL AGAINST RHINOCEROS.

A Terrific Battle in the Land of the Zulus.

When I was on the Zulu frontier, said a traveler recently, I stopped for a week with a native, a splendid fellow, who had a fine farm. Among other animals he had a young bull, called Hulo, which he and his children fondly believed could vanquish any beast on earth. Hulo was a great pet and not in the least vicious, so I was surprised on the second evening of my stay to see Hulo sniffing the air and pawing the ground in evident rage. I was about to ask what it meant when out of the forest came an ugly rhinoceros. My host and I hurried for our guns and Hulo dashed at the beast with dauntless courage. A rush, a crash, and the bull was hurled 20 feet. Fortunately the horn of his enemy had not caught him and the first rush had taught him a lesson. His horns were like sharp swords, but the hide of a rhinoceros is remarkably thick, and the young bull soon showed signs of fatigue. So he resorted to strategy, and dodged behind his clumsy foe, giving him vicious stabs in the thighs. This was rapidly weakening the rhinoceros, and just at this time we found some steel bullets (lead bullets having no effect on this animal) and quickly completed the work Hulo began. Then the bull stood on the carcass and bellowed his joy.

HIS GREATEST SOLICITUDE.

Tempest Tossed Mariner Wanted to Hear from the Game.

It was during the terrific December gales of a year ago that a Yankee schooner flying signals of distress sailed into the bay of Gibraltar. Almost immediately, says Youth's Companion, the American vice consul, with a friend, put off from the Calpe Rowing club piers to visit her. As they clambered up the ship's ladder they were welcomed by the captain, a jolly Yankee from Plymouth, and by his rather gloomy crew. "Captain, are you in trouble? What can I do for you?" asked the vice consul, at the same time remarking that his friend had that morning arrived from New York on the

Ears Come High.

New York, Dec. 3.—Dr. Nelder announced today that the ear grafting operation which was begun November 18 is very successful and the ear nearly healed. It is the first time in medical history that such an operation has been attempted. The wealthy westerner, whose identity is still held secret, shows little outward trace of the operation, beyond a few scars, which the surgeon says will eventually disappear. The man who lost his ear while in poor circumstances many years ago, paid \$5000 to a laborer for his right ear. Many offers of ears were made, but it was difficult to get a match.

C. K. McKenzie, a gambler, shot and instantly killed John Inhoff, at Dunsmuir, Cal., Tuesday morning. McKenzie then tried to commit suicide in the county jail. Lynching is feared.

The United States protected cruiser Tacoma, made 16.60 knots per hour on her trial run at Santa Barbara, Tuesday.

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