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THE ASTORIAN.

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Agents: L. P. FISHER, 20 and 21 New Merchants Exchange, is authorized to act as Agent for the ASTORIAN in San Francisco.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

—One lot sold in Knappton last week for \$1,000.

—Pilot Eric Johnson is now employed on the steam tug Astoria.

—We hope the Fireman's Ball this evening will be largely attended.

—The tug Merrimac is up to Portland having repairs made to her propeller shaft.

—Parties wishing Canary bird seed will call at J. W. Gearhart's store. He has a large quantity.

—Case has some very nice meerscham pipes. They are genuine, and when colored are the best.

—Thirteen hundred dollar's worth of leather was shipped from the Hemlock tannery last Saturday.

—Col. R. R. Spedden, who has been absent for a week at Oregon City and Portland, returned last evening.

—Mr. H. S. Gile, of Pacific county, is a member of the Olympia House of Representatives, and is at the Capital.

—Residents may now prepare to receive craw-fish. The next rain will certainly produce a good crop, it is asserted.

—A raft of 30,000 feet of lumber was towed over from Knappton by the Varuna Sunday, for the farmer's wharf.

—Capt. Flavel has just laid in a very extensive stock of ship chandlery. Twilight says he can fill any order now from a needle to an anchor.

—One hundred and seventy-eight cords of stove bolts are on wharves in Astoria for shipment to Honolulu by the barkentine Jane A. Falkenburg.

—Frank Faber's coffee is a renowned article. Call at the Central Market, Portland, and give him a trial for a lunch—all the way from a bit to ten dollars.

—The Tongue Point cannery will be built. We understand that a wharf of 300 feet frontage will be commenced soon by the conductors of the establishment.

—We understand that the remains of Mr. Jarvis, lost overboard from the Perpetua a few days since, came ashore and were decently buried at Clatsop, last Sunday.

—The schooner H. L. Tiernan came off the sands in fair style with a fine breeze, at high water Sunday morning, and we are pleased to hear that she is not badly injured.

—The steamship John L. Stephens, schooner Margaret Crocard, and barks Rival and Windward, and schooner Superior, have all gone to sea, bound for San Francisco.

—We invite attention to the new advertisement of Sam M. Smith, druggist, today. Sam has a splendid stock of goods in his line, and when you go to Portland give him a call.

—Morrison, Clay & Co., proprietors of the Star Line Pacific Coast Packets, are now sending vessels regularly to Oregon. John McCracken & Co. Portland, are agents. See advertisement.

—Speaking of school books—a friend at our elbow don't take any stock in any more. He has part of a lot on hand yet that cost him cash years ago. Out of \$47 worth of one assortment he got \$18; and for the remainder will get probably one and a half cents a pound at a paper mill.

—On the fourth page to-day we present valuable statistics of the wheat and flour trade of Oregon.

—Van Dusen has just opened a superb assortment of dress goods, plaids, hosiery, etc., which he is anxious the ladies of Astoria should inspect.

—W. H. Gray, esq., has placed us under obligations for a copy of his History of Oregon. It is a large, well printed book, on a very interesting subject.

—Capt. C. Crosby, of Tum Water, who is temporarily sojourning in Astoria, received a severe paralytic shock yesterday. His friends are hopeful, however, that it may not prove serious.

—Several hides were lost overboard from a small boat in Baker's bay last Friday, while being conveyed to the tug Varuna, en route from Unity to Portland. Unity is in want of a wharf.

—Seven hundred and twenty feet (120 fathom), of a new ten inch hawser was placed on board the steam tug Astoria last week. It is a big rope—and would make a lawyer, a butcher, a printer, or "any other man" sweat freely, to haul it in on a warm day.

—Capt. Flavel is pushing the work on his new wharf and warehouse, which will be a magnificent improvement when completed. The structure will be so supported, and braced, and bound together, that damage will not be inflicted to it easily by the heaviest ships or steamers.

—Several vessels in this port and Shoalwater bay have been fined by the U. S. Treasury Department \$50 for not surrendering their coasting licenses within three days after their expiration. One vessel was fined \$20 for not having the name properly painted.

—The Grand Lodge I. O. O. F., resolved that Grand Secretary Ridgely procure visiting cards for the sisters of Rebekah, the same to be printed in a neat manner, similar to cards of brothers, and to be furnished as other visiting cards. It was decided not to change the terms of subordinates from six to twelve months.

—Rev. Isaac Dillon, D. D., editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate, recently paid Astoria a visit, and of course called at this office. Of the ASTORIAN he says:

"A brief call at the office resulted in the conviction that Bro. Ireland was in the high way of success with his spicy and valuable tri-weekly newspaper. It is rightly named; for the paper is devoted almost exclusively to the material, intellectual, and moral interests of Astoria, and the county. The people of that region, we are glad to say, seem to appreciate Bro. Ireland's efforts, and all the better portion of the citizens are subscribers, or ought to be."

Concerning the "Occident Hotel" of this city, Mr. Dillon says:

"We made our way at once to the Occident, one of the very best houses on the Pacific coast. It is kept by Mr. S. N. Arrington, the very prince of good hotel-keepers. Board and lodging at this hotel costs but \$2 per day, and baths of all kinds are furnished free of additional cost. We were made entirely welcome by the gentlemanly host."

—A friend at Clatsop has sent us an elegant meerscham pipe, with a piece of chemois with which to cover it, and the following stanzas as a dedication:

When laborious day is over At close of setting sun, A little gleam of rest, in store— "Sols" daily course near run; 'Tis soothing to one self, to sit— And in a cloud of smoke, Muse on events as they fit, Enjoy the passing joke.

There's heap of comfort in a "Puff," Either from paper or the pipe— Although at times, some nasty stuff— Creep into "bowls," and into pipe.

But D. C., do you, my dear old friend, Accept this pipe from me,— I know you never will intend, To write—what should not be.

Or if perhaps, some little thing— May be rough—on some other, No trouble—heart-ache, may it bring But in one way, and out the other,— Like your I pipe.

School Books.—Now is the time to buy School books to conform with the new law. For first introduction there is a discount of 3 1/4 per cent. from retail prices, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Retail, Introductory. Rows include Pacific Coast, First Reader, Second Reader, Third Reader, Fourth Reader, Fifth Reader, Speller, Hopkins' Manual of American Ideas.

All of which may now be found in Astoria, at the store of I. W. CASE, Chenamus street, Astoria.

—The Cornelius paper, from which we copied a few lines on the 9th, relative to the Oregon Central Railroad, rises to explain, and says that it is the particular friend of this Astoria branch Railroad. It adds:

—Since the bursting of the great Northern Pacific bubble, we can't see why Astoria cannot receive the attention recently bestowed upon Tacoma. The building of the Astoria branch to connect at Cornelius; the extension of the Oregon Central Railroad to Roseburg, and the completion of the Oregon and California Railroad to the California line would open to Astoria those advantages which were claimed for Tacoma, and besides this, there would be the great Columbia and Willamet to empty their boats of precious freight into her warehouses. We shall have something more to say on this subject. We have sufficient reasons for saying that the injury done the railroad interests of Oregon by the defunct Herald and the Oregonian, are by no means fatal to Oregon's prosperity, and that confidence is fast being restored in Germany as to the resources of Oregon and the solvency of investment in these securities.

—The steam tug Astoria returned from a whale fishing excursion Sunday evening on the bar. When about 200 yards above the red buoy, the man employed heaving the lead, struck something three times when going about ten knots an hour with the Windward in tow, which proved to be a large whale. The propeller afterwards struck it, when the monster rolled up in a bloody pool, showing that it had been badly cut. Here may be another chance for Coroner Patterson's jury of Oysterville.

—It costs \$19 10 a ton (or about 58 cents per bushel), for the Walla Walla farmer to get his wheat to Portland. Canals are wanted at the Dalles and Cascades of the Columbia—and when the country is more populous they must be built, no matter how many Railroads may be constructed. The Columbia river is the Erie Canal for Eastern Oregon and Washington.

—Astoria exhibits signs of great improvement in all directions. The streets, sidewalks, wharves, and buildings generally are receiving attention, and the probability is that more houses will be erected the coming year than for several years past. The Episcopal, Congregational, and Roman Catholic Churches, all have the appearance of prosperity, each having a stated pastor. Strange to say, this oldest town in Oregon and the first to greet the eyes of strangers as they enter the Columbia, has no Methodist society in it.—Advocate.

—Mr. Frank Terman, graduate of Prof. Charles Cardinell's Dancing Academy, Portland, will open a dancing school at Masonic Hall in this city, on the evening of the first Tuesday in November. The classes will be arranged for Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with a class for smaller pupils Saturday afternoons, and a Soiree Saturday evenings. Particulars next week. Mr. T. has received his instructions from a very competent teacher, and we hope he may succeed in getting up a school here.

—There are more miles of railroad in the United States than in all the nations of Europe combined. Our completed line would reach 70,178 miles, with an additional 43,000 in process of building. In all Europe there is less than 65,000 miles of railroad. When we consider that in 1848 we had between five and six thousand miles of completed road, we can form an idea of the progress we have made in the building of railroads during the past twenty-five years. The amount of money or its equivalent, expended on the railroads of the United States amounts to the enormous sum of \$3,436,638,749. It is estimated that \$400,000,000 of capital is annually absorbed by railroad investments. Is it any wonder that an interest so powerful as this is beginning to be felt as one of the controlling influences of the land.

—A young New Yorker has obtained 27 different card photographs of future wives who are in store for him, obtained from as many different sorceresses. There is nothing left for him now but to join the Mormons.

Current literature most in vogue—Price currents.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

—A Candidate for the civil service recently gave up his examination in disgust, because he was asked how many bushels of wheat could be bought for ten dollars if one bushel cost forty cents. He said he had not learned anything about wheat, but he had always done his sums in potatoes and turnips.

—It has been found that Cincinnati whiskey contains ammonia, pyridine, picoline, collidine, formic, acetic, propionic, butyric, valerianic and carbolic acids, cresote and strychnine. At any rate, it is said that tobacco contains all these things except strychnine, and Cincinnati whiskey contains tobacco.

—Editors are not always the poor devils many people suppose them to be. Note the following "inventory of stock" on an Arizona editor's table: Two invitations to act as second in a duel, another to attend an Indian hunting raid, a pair of bearskin hunting pantaloons presented by an old hunter, three-pound nugget of silver, a free pass on a stage-route, two lottery tickets, three Apache scalp, a call to act as postmaster and justice of the peace, seven dollars' worth of fare-checks, and a notice of foreclosure of a mortgage on his printing materials."

—The chemical value of the alkali region in the Western territories is exciting considerable attention, and instead of being unproductive, as was once supposed, it is likely to contribute to the national treasury on account of the natural deposits of carbonate soda, alum, sulphur, asphalt and other minerals. The commissioner of the land office decides that these lands are more valuable than merely arable tracts, and ought not to be granted away except under the act of Congress which applies to mining lands.

—The small tools used by watchmakers and engravers, are now hardened by means of sealing-wax. The article is made white-hot and thrust into sealing-wax, allowed to remain a moment, and then withdrawn and thrust into another place; and this treatment is continued until the steel is cold, and will no more enter the wax. The hardness thus attained is extreme, and comparable to that of the diamond; in fact, steel hardened in this way may be used for boring or engraving steel, hardened by other processes, the tool being previously moistened with oil of turpentine.

—Prof. W. B. Carpenter shows in an essay just published that the Red Sea loses annually by evaporation at least eight feet of water, some estimate it as much as twenty three feet and regains this by the inflow from the ocean; that the Caspian has been brought down from sea covering a large part of Northern Asia by the excess of evaporation over supply from rain and rivers, and is kept at its present size and level by the fact that evaporation takes off all the water which its rain and river supply of the Black Sea is nearly all taken up by evaporation, leaving but a moderate amount to flow out into the Mediterranean; and that of this last great sea the rain and river supply makes good less than one-third of the amount taken up by evaporation, the rest coming from the Atlantic by way of the current flowing through the straits of Gibraltar. Prof. Carpenter shows also that the depths of the Mediterranean are stagnant, and that their turbidity and deficiency of oxygen cause a total absence of life.

—The London Athenaeum states that a new edition of Mr. Prescott's works, edited by Mr. Foster Kirke, the historian of Charles the Bold, is in the press, and that Senor Gonzales de la Rosa, a learned Peruvian, who is preparing editions of some important Spanish manuscripts for the press, has made an interesting discovery respecting one of Mr. Prescott's principal authorities in his "Conquest of Peru." Hardly any author is more frequently quoted in that work than "Sarmiento," whom Mr. Prescott supposed to be a writer who had himself been long in Peru, and an eye-witness of the scenes he described. Senor de la Rosa is able to prove that the manuscript in question is really the second part of the "Chronicle of Peru," by Cieza de Leon (hitherto supposed to be lost); that Sarmiento was a lawyer, and President of the Council of the Indies, who was never in America in his life; and that the document is merely endorsed as having been sent to him.

—The Chicago Tribune says: If railway travelers would like to know the kind of cattle railroads entrust their lives to, they should read the testimony taken at the investigation of the Muir disaster. The brakeman who was sent back to flag the approaching freight train, and who told the conductor afterward that he had gone a mile, testifies that he does not know how far a mile is. He thinks it is about eighty or ninety rods. His ideas of longitudinal measure also embraced the idea that a yard contains about eighty feet. It was this brutish creature's refusal to go far enough back that caused the destruction of life.

—Men are an egotistical race! How do we know but the birds and the insects are worth as much as we are? Perhaps they, in their turn, are egotists. Perhaps the blue-birds think the universe was made for them, and men are a part of the arrangement for their comfort. No doubt our blue-birds here believe that we, their human neighbors, have our thief-end in furnishing them a cigar-box to nest in. The butterflies speculate as to why God made men; men are of no use to butterflies! Mosquitoes see things plain-er: clearly, men were created as food for mosquitoes. But then comes to them the puzzle: why are men allowed sometimes to kill mosquitoes? A wise lot we all are—blue-birds, and mosquitoes, and men!

—Noah Webster used to spread his favorite idea of the spelling reform by traveling about from printing office to printing office and handing printed slips containing the word "theater," "center," etc., to persuade people to spell as he did. This was before the ravenous demand of the great-American people for dictionaries furnished him with a more effective propoganda than a peripatetic one.

—Parents may blame themselves that they are forsaken, and that their children make a foolish choice in business. Farm life suffers, perhaps, as many and as sad losses as any other. It is a rough hard life compared with many other livings, though, indeed, almost any honest life is a hard life; but it is often made a great deal harder and rougher than need be. To tell the young here how plainly farmers lived and dressed fifty years ago, and when they see those of their own age in other lines of life working not nearly so hard, but having much more money at their command, to think that they will be contented to delve, and to be cut off from any share of what others have, would be very unwise, and sure to end in disappointment. The times change, and we must change with them. The modes of life fifty years ago are no more a rule for us than their modes of travel or rates of postage. Entering into the feelings of children, giving them advantages of education, making the home pleasant and attractive, and pursuing a large and liberal policy toward them in regard to their settlement in life, making them junior partners in the concern, will do much toward keeping them from wandering, or prepare them, if they must go, to choose wisely, and to look back lovingly and yearningly to their old nest.

—The latest comic song has a jingle for its refrain recalling the punning chorus of "I saw Esau kissing Kate." Thus it runs: "Say so, Sue, Saucy Sue, Never leave me to sigh so, Sue; If you love me, Saucy Sue, Wouldn't it be better for you to say so Sue"

—A Scranton household is enjoying an era of peace. The lady of the house put her tongue to a flat iron to see if it was hot.

—A Cash on hand" in the Portland City Treasury September 30th, amounted to \$33,679 64.

It is astonishing how few people in Wall street have a "Wall eye."

—A Chinaman made the best butter exhibited at the Seattle fair.