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THE ASTORIAN.

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D. C. IRELAND, Proprietor

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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.
Any friend who feels an interest in the prosperity of this region, is authorized to act as Agent for this paper, in procuring subscribers.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

—The ball at Fort Stevens to-night will be a grand affair, and all Astorians who can go ought to be present.

—The Cutwater will not remain here any longer than necessary, but will probably sail with her present amount of cargo for Liverpool to-morrow.

—It was Capt. N. F. Mudge, instead of Wm. Headington, who fell over-board at the Farmer's wharf last week. The board was twenty feet long, and Mudge, it is said, was perfectly sober.

—Our public is patiently waiting for the appearance of something better to talk about than the failure of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and the Columbia river to do as they please.

—A cold under current, and warm southern current of wind, have been warring with each other for undisputed sway for the past forty-eight hours, in this region. From present appearances it is hard to tell which will win.

—This is the season for young ladies to prepare slippers for their "special" friends. We understand that our young friend Frank J. Taylor will get a nice pair, as a young lady has just bought ten yards of brussels carpeting for this purpose.

—Oysters in every style, at all hours of day or night, at the PARKER HOUSE RESTAURANT, Main street, Astoria.

—Yesterday the steamer Annie Stewart started from here with the French ship Nauvean St. Michael in tow, hoping to get through to Portland. This morning the steam tug Sedalia started with the schooner Wm. H. Meyer in tow, with the same hope.

—There would be no fear for the future if every one had the confidence in themselves that the average Portlander has, who says to himself that this freeze up will give us a chance to get a few cargoes of grain ahead for the next ships. If we had the docks, and the same access to the grain, they might think differently, perhaps.

—It is questionable whether the economy of heaven makes provision for the man who wilfully lies to a local reporter, or even the man who gets into the city jail, is released on a promise to pay, and then repudiates the debt. These two classes of men know but a trifle of the book of revelations. Their third woe cometh quickly.

—It is rumored that the Grangers of Oregon are going to start a massive co-operative store in this city, where they can purchase anything from a king-bolt to a horse-power, thrasher, or a steam-plow. Anything from a cotton umbrella to an entire house-keeping outfit. They propose to make the matter of the meeting of imports and exports at this point practically a fact.

—On account of the panic, and the ice-olation, eggs are worth 65 to 70 cents a dozen; "cabbage heads retailed at 5 cents a pound," ornaments a doorway on Main street. And potatoes are worth \$1 50 per bushel, and flour \$10 a barrel. If this general depression and consequent increase of supplies continues long—some of us will be obliged to run our appetites and stomachs on half-time.

—The friends of Capt. N. F. Mudge of this city will be pleased to hear of his success in advancing an improvement in boring machines. It will be the means of making an eternal fortune for the Captain, and we know of nobody more deserving of it than him. The invention makes it possible by a neat but simple arrangement of cog wheels to drive any desired number of bits or augers in a gang, by power furnished with one single revolving shaft. It possesses other advantages, which, taken with the important one adverted to, will very likely give it rapid sale.

—The schooner Hera put back to San Francisco on account of bad weather, on the 6th.

—The mail-boat from Portland may be expected in Astoria soon after she rounds Tongue point.

—Street Commissioner E. A. Taylor has barricaded the defective part of Cass street, South of this office.

—The Sedalia left the W. H. Meyer abreast the Farmers' warehouse this morning, where the Merrimac will hitch on for Portland.

—Gray and Donaldson are fattening a lot of splendid geese chickens and turkeys for a week from next Thursday. Call and take your pick now.

—No formal declaration of opinion or intention has been made on the part of the weather clerk but it is understood that the temperature has softened much since the Oriflamme arrived last Friday morning. From that day until now we have patiently waited for her to return from up the river, knowing that the Columbia had been frozen "stiff as a mackerel" above Astoria. What has become of her no "ASTORIAN" knows.

—Capt. P. Johnson informs us that the Annie Stewart succeeded in getting as far as Westport with the French bark Nauvean St. Michael. She returned here this morning, and left again with the Tongoy. The Oriflamme, bound up, is supposed to be at Oak Point to-day.

—We are informed of a case calling for charity in this vicinity. Mrs. Francis Marks, a widow with five children, it is at the house of Mr. A. J. Munson, below Smith's point, in a destitute condition, and she makes an appeal to generous hearted people for such things as they may be willing to contribute for her comfort, for which she will be very thankful.

—A neat, clean, cozy place, for gentlemen and ladies to enjoy a dish of fresh Oysters—is at the PARKER HOUSE RESTAURANT.

—Charley Dexter, of the Sea Side House has found out that the skin of an animal, whether cow, calf, colt, or horse, that dies on the farm, is worth more at home than at the tanner's. Cut it into narrow strips, and shave off the hair with a sharp knife before the kitchen fire, or in your workshop, on stormy days and evenings. You may make them soft by rubbing. A raw hide halter-strap an inch wide will hold a horse better, and last longer than an inch rope. It is stronger than hoop iron and more durable, and may be used to hoop dry casks and boxes, and for hinges. Try it on a broken tile, or any wood-work that has been split. Put it on wet, and nail fast. Thin skins make the best bag strings in the world.

—For fresh Oysters, in every style, call at the PARKER HOUSE RESTAURANT.

—Up to this time, including shipments to San Francisco and other domestic ports, there has left the Columbia river an equivalent of over 700,000 cents of Wheat this year. This is less than half the surplus crop of the Wallamet valley alone. When Walla Walla valley is included the surplus amounts to probably not less than 2,000,000 cents, leaving at this time perhaps 1,300,000 cents yet to be shipped. The vessels here now, and those known to be on the way from Central and South American ports, and Brazil, will not be able to carry away more than 500,000 cents, leaving still a balance of 800,000 cents to be yet provided for—a quantity more than equal to the whole amount that has yet left Astoria. In the face of these facts who can doubt any longer that Astoria deserves to be rated as a shipping port of considerable importance.

—Reports from different points throughout Canada show the storm of December 2d and 3d to have been one of the fiercest that ever visited the country. Trees were uprooted, barns and houses blown to the ground and a great many small villages on the margin of the lakes were inundated and telegraph lines prostrated in all directions. The injuries to the Central Prison, Gas Works and Government buildings in Toronto, amount to about fifty thousand dollars.

FISHING FOR TOM CODS.

According to the ASTORIAN, the principal employment and amusement, withal, of the average Astorian now, is fishing from the dock for tom cods. There is something whimsical, with a touch of the morbid, in the spectacle of a robust American citizen, fishing for tom cod for amusement. There sits the man on the dock with his two muscular legs wound about a pile as a precaution against surprise or accident. If he can find another one near enough to lean his back against, the situation is vastly improved, and the "sport" becomes absolutely overpowering. Thus fixed, the man baits his hook, throws it overboard, and—goes to sleep; "to sleep, perchance to dream." Time which waits for no man, wears on. After awhile, an unhappy tom cod, tired of the vanities and vexations of life, floating sleepily and aimlessly along with the tide, espies the bait. The tom cod is a fish whose heart is easily touched with a spectacle of woe-begoneness. He sees that the bait is attached to a hook; the hook to a string, and the string in turn to a man. Contentedly plating the scene for an hour or more, he finally takes in the situation—he is wanted above. Then, reflecting how little life is worth to him; how he might go wiggling alone for a few more days and then be swallowed ingloriously by a fillibustering shark; how he might by one little act of self-sacrifice relieve the woes of a man with an immortal soul and nine small children. He deliberately fixes his snout on that hook, with considerate care to save the bait. Having made sure that he is fast and tight, he backs up till the string is taut, and then gives a gentle jerk—a gentle one, just enough to waken the sleeper above, but not enough to startle him to the extent of a plunge overboard. The vibration of the string creeps slowly up from the tom cod in the sea to the man on the dock; the latter lazily opens his eyes, leisurely rubs them, and finally waking up, proceeds deliberately and with solemn gravity to draw in the slack of the string. The tom cod comes up straight and limp and lays down quietly alongside the unhappy man; the latter drops his hook once more into the water, re-adjusts himself around and against his piles, and both go to sleep again. And this, reader, is a faint description, in brief, of the exciting sport of fishing for tom cods.

The writer of the above, his name is Clark Crandall and Salem is his home,—is n't a very "robust American," but like the Mississippi candidate for Justice of the Peace he is "experienced," as we happened to find out on a sea voyage and fishing excursion up the North Pacific coast, in the fall of 1871. The steamer Gossie Telfair had been chartered for the occasion, and we met her at Seattle along in the month of mild September, having gone overland from the Columbia with the intention of taking all the trout from the brooks and lakes in the vicinity of Olympia and Steilacoom, before the grand onslaught for sea fish at Chuckanut bay, Nanaimo, Victoria, and on to Sitka if found necessary. Purser Goodhue, Capt. Hays, Capt. Gardner, and especially the Steward William, will testify to Crandall's "experience" on that voyage. The people of Steilacoom, of Olympia, and of Seattle, would dread to hear of his intentions to ever again return to those places with his hooks and lines. He is emphatically an expert on the trail of trout, frogs, suckers, and sick like game, but we never heard of his catching a tom cod, and we should like to inquire, for information, where he gets his ideas from, for such a lucid explanation of the process.

School Books.—I have lately received all the different kinds of New School Books required to be used in this State, that can now be found in San Francisco. Also, Slate pencils, Blotting pads, a good assortment of Stationery, Drawing paper, CARD BOARD, Perforated board, Ink, (Carmine, Purple and Black). Likewise a new stock of Crockery, Clocks and a large assortment of Lamp Chimneys, all of which will be sold cheap for cash.

I. W. CASE,
Chenamus st., Astoria.

Just Received.—A new stock of Waterproof, Flannels, Prints, all varieties of Hosiery, and all kinds of Gloves; also a new stock of Oil Suits, suitable for Winter wear, and Rubber Boots, fitted for wear and tare, and the celebrated Mackintosh Rubber coats. All of which shall be sold as cheap as the cheapest.

A. VAN DUSEN,
Corner Main and Chenamus streets.

Teacher Wanted.—A Teacher, Male or Female, to teach in the District School, in District No. 3, Clatsop plains, Clatsop county, Oregon. Communicate to the undersigned.

J. A. PACKARD,
Skipanon, Oregon.

EXCELLENT.—Those Sugar Cured Hams, and that Fresh Roll Butter, Fresh Buckwheat, (this year's crop), Corn Meal, Cracked Wheat, Hominy, etc., at CASE'S.

DIED ALONE.

An Esteemed Citizen of Pacific Co. Found Dead by the Roadside.

It is very seldom that a public journal is called upon to detail a more sorrowful circumstance than the following, which occurred in Pacific county last week. The death of an aged and esteemed citizen, in a manner unaccountable, alone by the roadside, exposed to the elements of chill Winter, with no kind hand to minister to his dying wants. Our Shoalwater bay correspondent, under date of Oysterville, December 11th, furnishes the following PARTICULARS:

EDITOR ASTORIAN:
Quite a gloom was cast over our quiet village last evening, by the announcement of the death of one of our much esteemed citizens, Samuel Augustus Woodward. He was found dead about one mile from Mr. Stout's house, on the Peninsula. He had been at Mr. Stout's for the purpose of hunting and trapping, on the 7th inst., and left the house and went out and killed some geese, and took them to the house, where he stayed a while, and again started with his gun to kill some more geese. That was the last that was seen or heard of him until yesterday, the 10th, when he was found dead, about one mile from the house lying on his back, as though he had laid down to rest, with his gun beside him. There were no marks or bruises upon his person, to indicate how he met his death.

CORONERS' JURY REPORT.
Coroner Lane summoned a jury, and proceeded at once to the place, and took charge of the body and conveyed it to town where it received a christian burial. The verdict of the jury was as follows:

TERRITORY OF WASHINGTON, }
County of Pacific, —ss. }
We, the undersigned jurors, summoned by I. N. Lane, Coroner of Pacific county, Washington Territory, to inquire into the cause of the death of a person, (found dead on the Weather-beach Prairie), after being duly sworn, do find that the name of deceased was S. A. Woodward, born in the State of New York, and aged 43 years. From the evidence, and all the surrounding circumstances under which the body was discovered, do find that deceased came to his death from natural, or other unknown providential causes.

RELATIVES OF DECEASED.
Mr. Woodward leaves a brother on the island of Mauretas, in the Indian Ocean, and a sister in the State of Maine. Some other brothers are living in Iowa and Illinois. He has lived here several years, and had many friends about Shoalwater bay, and was generally esteemed by all who knew him.

Congressional News.

From our San Francisco exchanges received by the Oriflamme, dates to the 9th, we collate the following summary of Congressional action:

In the Senate on the 3d, Senator Mitchell introduced a bill granting the right of way to the Canyonville and Galeville Railroad, Southern Oregon, and one for another Custom-house at Portland. Also, a resolution providing for ascertaining and paying losses sustained by citizens of Oregon by reason of Indian depredations, and a resolution instructing committee on commerce to inquire into the expediency of constructing a harbor of refuge for vessels at Port Orford. Bills were also introduced providing for the better protection of the northern and northwestern frontiers, to organize the territory of Pembina, and to aid in the execution of laws in Utah. Notice was also given of a bill to repeal so much of the Postal act as prohibits week papers from passing free of postage through the mails [in the counties where printed.]

Morrill, of Maine, spoke upon his resolution instructing the committee on finance to consider the expediency of reporting a bill to provide for the resumption of specie payments January 1, 1875. His argument favored the plan providing that the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue, of 4-year certificates bearing 3.65-100 interest, redeemable at par in United States notes or gold, at the option of the holders requiring banks to keep a moiety of their reserves in those certificates, and for the government to give notice January 1, 1875, that it will pay its notes in cash in New York; authorizing the government to negotiate a loan of \$200,000,000 in coin, at six per cent. per annum. The certificates, as fast as redeemed, may be paid out by the Secretary of the Treasury to satisfy claims against the government.

Dawes introduced a bill to provide for the redemption of the loan of 1858. It authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue in exchange for \$20,000,000 of these bonds an equal amount of bonds of funded loans; declares it to be the pleasure of the

United States to pay all coupon bonds of the loan of 1856 on the 1st of January, 1874, but allowing holders of these bonds to exchange for 5 per cent. bonds within six months from that date. The bill was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

Platt offered a resolution instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether Congress has constitutional authority to create corporations for constructing railroads or canals penetrating two or more States and whether it has authority to regulate the rates of railroad transportation of existing roads, chartered by States, which by consolidation have continuous lines running through two or more States.

Committee of the house have agreed to a bill repealing the salary law. The bill provides for a reduction of Congressional pay, from \$2,500 to \$5,000, beginning with the present Congress, and dating back to March 4th last, which will require the refunding of about \$1,800 by each member from the amount received since that date. No mileage, stationery or other perquisites are allowed. The provisions of the bill extend to all who are benefited by the Act repealed, except when prohibited by the Constitution, and includes Cabinet and Bureau officers. The only exceptions to its operation are the President and the Judges of the Supreme Court, and in these cases a reduction of \$5,000 is provided for in the President's salary after Grant's term expires and, also, for a reduction in the salary of every new Justice of the Supreme Court. The Committee are not unanimous upon the bill, but agree to support it. Many Western and Southern members will not support it.

In the Senate on the 8th Windom introduced a bill to incorporate the Southern Transcontinental Railroad Company, and to grant the right of way through public lands to the same. Sherman introduced a bill to authorize the organization of National Banks without circulation. Sargent introduced a bill for reorganizing the clerical force of the General Land Office. Logan introduced a bill to provide for cheap and permanent transportation for persons and freight between New York and Chicago.

In the House, on the 8th, under the call of States, a large number of bills were introduced and referred, among them the following:—To amend the internal revenue laws. For the sale of timber lands in California and Oregon. For the improvement of Sacramento and Feather rivers, California. For public buildings in Olympia and Port Townsend. For a wagon road in Washington Territory. The Speaker presented a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, asking for an extra appropriation for his Department. The Secretary reviews the work that has been done and now in progress, a detailed account of which has been published, and estimates the amount necessary to fit our monitors and other vessels for active service and to keep the Construction Bureau at work, at \$4,000,000. If the force is to be increased and the double-turreted monitors Miantomah, Monadnock, and Puritan put in order, at least \$10,000,000 more will be needed. The letter was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

—There are various places of amusement open in Astoria, now that the Winter of another year is upon us, and games for long evenings are popular. Frequently families gather together beneath the rays of a bright Kerosene light, the oil of which cost ten cents a gallon at Titusville, and has passed across the continent, or around the Horn to this remote and ice-olated locality without getting a very considerable horn of water in it. The subdued enjoyment of such parties is a blessed thing to see. Naught is heard but the grating of the checker, the click of the domino or the muffled rasp of the card, with an occasional observation such as, "Whose turn is it?" "My sell." "How many you want." "Give me three," and the like.

—In heart, hand, and pocket, our worthy city marshal is a friend to the sailor, but when masters, mate and crew leave their vessel as if searching for snakes, and present an overdrawn picture of the "jolly Tars on shore," Billy is in duty bound to make examples of them and introduce them to the chokey, on Benton street.