

The Daily Astorian.

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The Daily Astorian.

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(Monday Excepted).

D. C. IRELAND : : PUBLISHER.

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To City Subscribers.

There are such frequent changes in the residence of our city patrons that we shall feel obliged to any who make such changes if they will report the same to this office. Otherwise we shall not be responsible for failures of the carrier to deliver the paper promptly and regularly to them.

PASSED.—The bill conferring jurisdiction on the District Court for Pacific county was amended in council, the amendments concurred in, and the bill passed on the 8th.

IT SUMMER.—The Sunday Welcome of the 7th calls our attention to an article from The Dalles Mountaineer which was republished and endorsed by THE ASTORIAN nearly a week before the Welcome came to town. If Bro Farrish wishes to read as lessons he should get his shot in ahead of the times.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.—Wheat ought to be one dollar and fifty cents per bushel all over the Wallamet valley. San Francisco pays from \$2 to \$2.25 per cental. A cental of wheat is a bushel and two-thirds of a bushel. Wheat afloat at Astoria is always worth as much as wheat afloat at San Francisco.

OREGON SWEET POTATOES.—Mr. Geo. M. Prior, says the Plaindealer, has this season raised over one hundred bushels of sweet potatoes on his place a few miles south of Roseburg, and the crop promises to be a profitable one; equal in size to the average potatoes imported to this place, and in flavor much better. Mr. Prior thinks they will do much better after they become acclimated, but considers the present crop a fair average with other states.

GRANT COUNTY STEAK.—The Grant County Times says: "Hunter and Devine propose stocking Harney valley with 35,000 head of cattle. They are now trying an experiment, viz: that of shipping heaves from Winnemucca to Chicago and New York in refrigerator cars, and if the experiment proves satisfactory Delmonico's guests can call for another one of those Grant county steaks. The southern portion of this county is especially doing a heavy business in stock."

THIRTY THOUSAND BUSHELS LOST.—A gentleman from King's Valley, reports to the Albany Democrat that the loss of grain in that locality has been terrible. Their crop was estimated at 40,000 bushels, and about 30,000 of this is still standing. Most of the wheat was of the celebrated hazel club variety, the very best for flouring purposes. The stalk of this variety is so strong that the rain cannot soften it enough to allow the head to hang down, and the consequence is that the grain has become wet through and has sprouted and is now growing nicely. During the few warm days they had last week some of the chili club was saved. It has such a light stock that as soon as it became damp the head would hang downward, and the kernels were thus shielded from the rain.

ANOTHER POINT.—The following sentence, from the Walla Walla Union, ought to furnish the Sunday Reporter and Commercial Welcome man with another point against the opening of the Columbia river. The Union says: "The past season demonstrated the fact that there is not anywhere near enough farm machinery in the country to put in and harvest the crops this country does produce, to say nothing of its capabilities." Chip in; Bro. Farrish. A country that did not prepare for harvesting one year is not likely to raise anything next year, or words to that effect will do, to correspond with your idea that a river that is navigable for 1,000 boats, ought not to be opened because there is less than 50 boats upon it now. See Cascade canal arguments in your late files.

AMUSEMENTS.

It will be seen by reference to our amusements column that Emerson's celebrated troupe are to appear at Liberty hall. They come in a good time, nearly every other man in town has got the blues, and Emerson's just the band to cure that sort of feeling. Give them a rousing reception.

ARRIVED.—Santa Cruz, yesterday.

DUE TO-DAY.—The Elder and Orizaba, from San Francisco.

SAILED YESTERDAY.—Chester and Ancon, for San Francisco.

—Powder, ammunition and oil, made up the cargo of the Santa Cruz.

—Both steamers Orizaba and Chester yesterday were plumb full of cargo.

—The Canby will leave for Tillamook to-day, bar and weather permitting.

—The new schooner built by Mr. Wheeler has been named Alice. She registers 25 tons.

—At breakfast yesterday we enjoyed a fine meal of fresh brook trout, caught in the classic streams near this city the day previous by Mr. A. J. Negler, Dr. I. M. Severn, and their better halves, who returned from their camping expedition late on Wednesday evening with luncheon baskets empty, but fish baskets full.

BAKER CITY.—The Mountain Sentinel says: "We paid Baker city a flying visit during the early part of the week, and felt pleased to note the bustling business prosperity that presented itself on every hand. Baer & Bloch were receiving very heavy shipments of general merchandise, Heilner & Co. are doing all in their power to get their new store completed, and Bamberger & Frank are laying in a stock of goods more extensive than ever before. Jolly Jo Lachner, of the Railroad House, Manaudas, of the Cosmopolitan, Mrs. Earhart, of the Central Restaurant, and Ireland of the Western, all seemed to be doing well, as their houses were crowded to their utmost capacity. Jim Virtue sat complacently behind his counter and frequently arose to cast his experienced eye over a few ounces of gold dust. Brattain was rushing around in search of some unknown person who had county orders to sell at a fair discount; 'Shep' was busy sticking type in the Bedrock; Weller had on a nice clean apron; the legal fraternity were apparently full of business quite a number of the 'boys' were full of gin, and such was the state of affairs as we seen them in Baker."

THE BEAUTIES OF THE COLUMBIA.—Dora Darnmore, in a letter to the San Francisco Mirror, says of the scenery along the Columbia river: "I wish I could with pen and paper do justice to the magnificent and picturesque beauty of the scenery through which we are passing. But it is impossible to present by such feeble means, any idea of the inimitable loveliness of this glorious river, and its beautiful wooded banks, with their superbly blended foliage of dark green pines in the background, and delicately-tinted leaves of a paler green, in the foreground; while far away, lifting their hoary heads above the fleecy clouds, rise the snow-crowned summits of Mount St. Helens, Rainier, and lastly, glorious, majestic Mount Hood. The contrast of these snowy crests with the surrounding sea of billowy foliage is indescribable. How shall I picture to the Mirror's numerous readers, the marvelous beauty of the surface of this great stream, as smooth as a polished mirror, in which is reflected with wonderful distinctness every tree, and rock and shrub on its banks. The river is very winding, and every turn reveals new beauties to our admiring eyes, and brings fresh ejaculations from our lips, till adjectives fail us, and we can but sit in admiration too deep for utterance."

—The advocate of the "dollar of our fathers" have missed the opportunity of noting the advantages of silver revealed by the recent robbery on the Union Pacific Road. The Government had hundreds of thousands of dollars in silver bars on the train, which the robbers contemptuously refused to touch, not having a train of ox-wagons to haul it away with. Had it been gold, the Government would be out just that much. Score one for the silver dollar; it is burglar-proof.

CITY ITEMS.

...The new art taught and pictures painted in the most beautiful style, also all kinds of fancy and ornamental work taught by Mrs. L. B. Constock. See sample of the beautiful pictures at the new classes. Orders taken by M. H. ...

...If you want to enjoy a good laugh, go in Cornart's, and get the latest book out, They all Do, written by the Danbury News man.

...Dr. and Mrs. Kinsey are prepared to accommodate a few boarders, at their house on Water street.

...Choice new sets of crockery, very unique and novel; also the self-righting "spittoon," that always keeps upright, just received and selling at prices to suit the times, at L. W. Case's.

...Picture frames, and brackets at Adler's. Silver, gold, and colored card-board, at Adler's. Finest assortment of Papered, at Adler's. Musical Instrument, at Adler's. "That Husband of Mine," at Adler's. "The Dance of Death" at Adler's. "They all do it," at Adler's.

...Board and lodging can be had at Mrs. Munson's at reasonable rates.

...The best cooking apples and pears in the city are to be found at Jozorth's, who also keeps a full stock of fresh vegetables constantly on hand at the lowest prices. Call and be convinced.

...You can always get fresh oysters in every style and at all hours, day or night, at the Central Coffee Saloon, Concomly street, between Benton and Lafayette.

...Astoria Liquor Store, H. Marx & Co., proprietors. Sole agents for Charles Reibstock & Co., St. Louis, Mo. America's finest Stonewall whisky, Snow Hill fire, Cooper whisky. For sale by all general dealers and saloon keepers. Depot and Branch House of Marx & Jorgensen, Portland, Oregon.

...Dry goods, millinery and notions cheap for thirty days at the Bee Hive.

...The Dance of Life, an answer to the Dance of Death, at the Circulating Library.

...Dr. F. P. Hicks, dentist, rooms in Dr. Welch's building, on Squemoqua street, offers his services to the public of Astoria.

...Peter Runey is still in the market with all kinds of building materials in his line. Has just received 100,000 lath, 2,000 bushels of sand, and a large stock of first quality of brick at his warehouse foot of Benton street.

...The "Dance of Life," an answer to the Dance of Death, by Mrs. J. M. Bowers. For sale at the City Book Store.

...Board and lodging by the day or week at the Astoria Beer Hall, Main street, Astoria. Peter Davis, proprietor.

...Have you seen the Bismare stove? No? Then call at once to-day, upon L. P. Richman & Co.

...Fresh oysters in every style at Schmeier's.

...The "Sunny Hearth" is what you want for your private office. Call on L. P. Richman & Co. and see it. Beautiful stove.

...Mrs. Dr. Burr, Homeopathic physician, has removed to her new residence four doors from Liberty hall.

...White wire goods in every style, at L. P. Richman & Co's.

...Dr. B. R. Freedland has located permanently in Astoria for the practice of dentistry. Office in Shuster's building, on Cass street, next door to THE ASTORIAN office.

...Photographs! The latest styles taken at Shuster's new gallery, Cass st., next to the Astorian office.

...For clean towels, sharp razors, and an easy shave, go to Gillespie at PARKER HOUSE BATHS. Hair cutting, shampooing, and dyeing.

...Little Van has reestablished himself at the old corner, refreshed by his late journey to the Atlantic states, and will as formerly attend to all orders in his line as general jobber.

ANOTHER VICTORY GAINED IN FAVOR OF SPECIE PAYMENTS.

After this date, coin will be used for change, and tickets dispensed with; all drinks and cigars five and ten cents, at the Chicago House, Main street, Astoria. N. WEIMAN.

SOMETHING NEW.

For Glassware, Crockery, Powder and Shot, Gun Wads, Percussion Caps,—in fact everything that is useful as well as ornamental, go to J. W. Gearhart, who sells cheap for cash. Goods delivered free of charge.

CANARY BIRDS.—for sale at Gillespie's, Parker house baths.

SHIP-MASTER'S READING ROOM.—Mr. Peter Wilhelm has permanently fitted up a ship-master's reading room in connection with the Gem saloon in Astoria. The latest shipping papers and home-ward and outward bound shipping lists are kept on file. Telegraph office next door.

The atmosphere of Oregon is pure and cheerful, warm and balmy; life is longer, health is better and more enjoyable, when the ordinary laws of such are attended to, than in any state in the Union, or in any country in Europe.

AZTEC CIVILIZATION.

Some Curious Facts About a Very Ancient Race.

The Indians Supposed to Have Killed off the Aztecs to Make Room for Themselves.

DEL NORTE, COL., Sept. 30, 1877.

About ten miles below or south of the Ute Reservation, on the Rio Las Animas river, are some of the most extensive and interesting ruins of the Aztec people. The indications are that there was at one time in the lower Animas valley a population of at least a hundred thousand industrious and intelligent people. Buildings of stone, covering acres of land, are now partially standing, and, as far as the Indians are concerned, they know nothing of the origin of the Aztecs or of the time when these buildings were occupied.

The larger buildings are of stone, and the material clearly shows the marks of some hard instrument used in dressing. Even the hardest boulders from the washed gravel have been made to do service after having been broken. They are nicely and smoothly faced to lay in the walls, and some of them are so hard that steel tools will hardly cut them. Small tools, that are supposed to be hardened copper, are found occasionally in these ruins. One party found a good sized trowel made of flint stone, and it was highly polished on the bottom, but was thick through. He had the misfortune to let it lie where an Indian could get his hands on it, and it vanished. The lower story walls are faced on the outside and inside, and filled in just as a mason of the present day would build, and they are three and a half feet thick; the next story is three feet thick and the upper or third story is about two feet thick. The timbers are most all of red or yellow cedar and short, split cedar sticks are placed so as to form a flooring, which is coated with a kind of adobe about three inches thick; and this forms the floor. The timbers of the lower floor of the third story extend about four feet through the walls, and have formed at some time a promenade, or, perhaps, a place for archers to defend their homes. The entrances are universally from the top, and between some rooms they are placed about equal distances from the floor and ceiling. The tops are not arched, but are supported by small cedar sticks, and they are held in place by some kind of bark strings, some of which are now perfect. Sandstone is considerably used in the construction, and the country abounds in that kind of stone, though there is no stratified sandstone within three miles of this principal city, and the supply is limited here. The chances are that the bulk of material was brought from six to ten miles. The timbers in a few of the rooms, where they are not filled by the falling walls and dirt, are in a fair state of preservation, and a few are perfectly sound; but the main buildings show that fire has done most of the work of destruction, aided by the storms of a thousand years. One room is neatly whitewashed, and on the supports of the upper floor is the mark of a small hand in whitewash, possibly a woman who was standing on something, when, afraid of falling, she caught hold of the beam to save herself, and left a perfect print of the hand. It is as perfect as the day it was done.

One thing peculiar about one of the main buildings is the size of the rooms, and they all appear to be of the same dimensions in the northern building; they are six feet wide, eight feet high and fourteen feet long. But in the other large building they are not of uniform size, and many are from fourteen to twenty feet square, or of irregular sizes. There are but few inscriptions to be found. Outside of the main buildings the ruins show to me that the houses are built mostly of boulders and built circular, and in front of the north building is a long heap of dirt that was probably one

day a wall of defense. At each of the large buildings are walls of circular buildings, about twenty feet in diameter, and they were evidently places of worship. Remains of buildings and pottery are scattered around, and there are circles enclosed by buildings that were probably used for corrals for the herds of sheep, etc. A line of buildings runs to the bank that was probably one day the bank of the Animas river, and they probably had underground passages for water supply in case of a siege. Indications of roads and irrigating ditches are plain to be seen.

I do not think these places could have been occupied long by the people; they were probably driven out after they had been in there not many years. I dug down into an inner room where man had never trod since the building was abandoned, and I found the clay and chinking between the stones was as perfect as the day it was done, and the thin pieces of the stones that were put in to fill the spaces still show the finger marks very plainly and look fresh and new.

Graves have been opened, and some skulls and a few bones have been found in a good state of preservation. The graves were made by stones set around the bodies, and a mound of earth raised over them. These people were undoubtedly the same nation that settled in the valleys of the Mississippi and Missouri, and were driven back by the present savages that encumber this continent, who were of Asiatic origin, and came in by Behrings Straits.

The Zuni and Moequos are the nearest descendants of these people, and the old men say that their people came in ships. This problem of the origin of these people will some day be solved; then we shall find that they were an immense nation, and that this great race were the ones who occupied Central and South America; and that the ruins that we call Aztec were contracted and of an inferior workmanship, built under the pressure of war and all its kindred horrors, and that the Indians that we give arms and blankets to, and send thieving agents and meek christians to, are responsible for the decay and slaughter of this race, afterwards aided by the more treacherous Spaniard.

FLINT.

—Chicago justice has shown itself ferociously eager to apprehend fugitive Spencer who is nowhere to be found, but we do not see that it is eager to apprehend others who are quite as good exponents of the Spencerian system as the absconding Spencer himself, and we fancy that if the ex-President of the defunct State Savings were to put in an appearance on the street of Chicago, justice would protest that it never had any intention of apprehending him, and that its anxious inquiries as to his whereabouts were dictated solely by a proper solicitude for his health. Spencer answers very well for a scapegoat, but it is a poor system which makes a scape-goat out of the terrible criminal who runs away, and refuses to molest the brazen criminal who remains.

—One of the great beauties of the "revelations" made by Tweed is that they leave everyone free to believe as much as suits him; and the consequence of allowing him the latitude of an Arabian Nights story-teller is that the cause of justice is, if possible, more hopelessly confused than ever. It would have been a great deal better for every good interest if the old scoundrel had been permitted to tell nothing which he was not able to prove. No doubt a number of guilty men would have escaped further exposure; but that would be a gain to the cause of justice, compared with the farce of lumping together the innocent and the guilty in common indictment, framed by the most notorious liar and thief that this country has ever known.