The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA. OREGON:

Editor. D. C. IRELAND.

Narrow Gauge Railways.

The Weston Leader has information that the extension of a branch railroad from Whitman station to Grand Ronde valley, via Weston and Pendleton, has been determined upon. An item of moment is the grade by this route. With rare exceptions, the road between Weston and Whitman is a beautiful prairie level, scarcely disturbed by undulations. The cost of grading would closely approach the minimum. The soil through which it would extend, is characterized by the marked productiveness of the valley, bunchgrass growing in great luxuriance. This would just so much earlier place that great idle tract in the hands of the agriculturists. No one circumstance would tend to display the resources and develop the native wealth of that magnificent country more than would ready facilities of ingress, and adequate means of transport. Short lines of narrow gauge railways, as feeders to that great artery of commerce, the Columbia to lend its brightest genius to getriver, is what that country needs ting a guilty villain clear of the in preference to any long line of eastern extension built at the expense of the people by holding in its public respect. In fact, it ought grasp the public domain, preventing its settlement. We hope to hear that the information received by the Leader is authentic.

THE ASTORIAN cannot concede that one point has been effectually sustained by the opponents of marrow gauge railways. The narrow guage movement has continued in spite of all opposition, and the theory last year took the exceedingly They go upon journeys by the practical form of nearly one thousand miles of track laid, on fifty different roads-all but one of them of three feet gauge, the exception being three feet six inches. Rearly one-third of the total mileage and nearly one - third of the roads named are marrow gague-about the same proportion that was reported in the same connection last year. Of the thirty-six states and territories chumerated in a recent article in the Railway Age, twenty-four show new. narrow gauge mileage, while the whole number of such roads in progress or projected is almost past reckoning. All this shows that the narrow gauge is firmly established as a part of the sailway system of the country, and this should induce its enemies to the less demonstrative, and unreasonable, in their opposition to it, and its enthusiastic friends to the more moderate in their claims for it and to substitute the knowledge gained by experience for sheory and speculation. If Asteria cannot enjoy the facility, we shall readily cherish the unbiased hope that other localities evincing the disposition to do so, may succeed beyond their own most sanguine expectations. Some people living in a region of country adapted to this system consider too early that it is not necessary for them to do anything, as the road will be built anyhow. It takes cash to build even a narrow gauge railway, and gar advice to the people of eastern Oregon and Washington is to help each enterprise by every possible means-and we would apply a bit of this advice to Astoria people as well "The dog will have his bay," instead influence on our atmosphere is so of "his day," to the great dismay of evry small that it cannot even Shakespearean scholars.

Justice Nil in a Cause.

In conversation with a party of gentlemen in our office yesterday. one of them remarked that District Attorney Caples "was too smart for the lawyers on the opposite side" to allow them to get a new trial for the Portland murderers, Brown and Johnson. The remark was intended as a compliment to Mr. Caples, but without wishing to disparage any member of the profession of attorneys-at-law, it occurred to us that this was an evidence that the times have changed. There have been, in times past, attorneys who made the justice of their cause a consideration in accepting an employment, and who refused to undertake the defense of a guilty criminal, but that class appears to be about extinct. The moral stamina of a bar who can "congratulate" one of its members upon rescuing a guilty scoundrel from just punishment is to some men below par; for it is at variance with the principles which should lie at the foundation of all legal process-right and justice. The only achievements upon which any lawyer can justly pride or congratulate himself are those in which virtue unjustly accused is vindicated, or vice brought to justice. When the bar, as now too generally is the case, does not scruple just punishment of his crimes, it cannot well complain if it loses to expect nothing else. There may be cause for "congratulation" in such an achievement as that of procuring a new trial for convicted assassins, but we cannot see it.

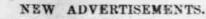
The Moonshiners.

The New York Herald gives a graphic account of a community in some portion of the Atlantic states, who are believers in the moon. moon, plant and reap crops by the moon, inaugurate new enterprises by the moon, etc., all through the

-Grand Duke Nicholas, son of Grand Duke Constantine, has been exiled to Orenburg for communicating with the Berlin National Zeitung in regard to the Berlin strategic railway. This is a severe, but perhaps just retribution, and should be a lesson to prattling officials in high places.

-The Oregonian only employs one Chinamen, hence it thinks itself in a position to be "independent" on the Chinese passenger act. What a fine thing to be placed in so pleasant predicament. It does not make any difference to the Oregonian whether there be forty or forty million Chinese on this coast. Exalted view.

-The city of Elizabeth in New Jersey has about 28,000 inhabitants. The rate of taxation this year is \$3 65. The total debt is not quite six millions; but a considerable part of it has become due, and there is no money with which to pay the demands. Now a rate of taxation as high as this would be ruinous in any city. There are millions of money now in New York which can be had on call at a rate of interest not greater than the taxation of Eliza beth city. About four millions of improvement bonds were issued by the authorities at the rate of \$1,500,000 a year.

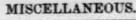


PURSE FOUND.-In Metropolitan Hall. Owner can have the same on application to C. H. Stockton, by proving property.

NOTICE.-All persons are hereby notified not to pay R. F. Wickham any tax due the city, he having been suspended from the office of Superintendent of streets of the city of Astoria, and not authorized to collect taxes. J. H. D. GRAY. Acting Mayor. Acting Mayor

MYSTERIOUS MYSTERY.—Disappeared from my cattle, on the 18th inst., a two year old heifer, mostly red. Any one giving information concerning the whereabouts of the same, will be liberally rewarded by JOHN WILLIAMSON, Sen., Near the cemetery Astoria, Oregon, Feb. 20, 1879. DR. J. W. OLIVER, HOMEOPATHIST. OFFICE .-- In Shuster's Daguerrean build-

ing. Futrance-Second door above that of the DATLY ASTORIAN, Cass Street.





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Corper Chenamus and Cass streets.

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Fresh Garden Seeds.

BOTH OREGON AND CALIFORNIA

JUST RECEIVED.

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BUSINESS CARDS. B. F. DENNISON. F. J. TAYLOB DENNISON & TAYLOR, ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

ASTORIA, OREGON. OFFICE-Up stairs in Parker's building corner Chenamus and Benton streets.

O. F. BELL. A. MEACHEN BELL & MEACHEN, Attorneys at Law and Notaries Public.

Commissioner of Deeds for California and Washington Territory. Astoria, Oregon.

OFFICE-Corner of Squemocque and Cass

A TAN EARLY DATE THE FURNITURE of the late George Duncan of this city will be sold at anction. This furniture nearly as good as new, and consists of Palor, Dining-Room, -AND-Bed-Room Sets.

AUCTION SALES.

Notary Public for the State of Oregon.

Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

Agent for the FIREMEN'S FUND INSUR-

ANCE COMPANY of San Francisco.

COMMISSION AGENT and AUCTIONEER.

Rents and Accounts Collected, and re-

turns promptly made.

SATURDAYS at 2 P. M.

ture or any other goods to dispose of either at anction or private sale should notify me

soon as convenient before the day of sale. No storage charged on goods sole at Aue-tion. E. C. HOLD.IN.

Furniture for Sale.

Auctioneer

N. B. Parties having real estate, farnt-

E. C. HOLDEN,

Regular sales day.

tion. td

For particulars, until further notice, address J. W. Duncan, care of R. D. Hume & Co., 221 Front street, San Francisco.

A RARE CHANCE.

WILL SELL ANY OR ALL OF THE following described property, v.z : 160 Acres, Sec. 22, T. S. N. of R. 9 west, southeast quarter.

Also, in Olneys Astoria Lots I, 2, 3, and 4, in Block 79; Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6, in Block 160;

Lots 2 and 4, in Block 120; and Lot \$. n Block 132; North half of Block 8,-? 1-? acres.

DAVID INGALLS. Astoria, Oregon, Dec 1878. 85-6m

MISCELLANEOUS.

J. H. D. GRAY. Wholesale and retail dealer in.

OYSTERS, by the SACK,

Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc.

General storage and Wharfage on reasonable terms.

HUGH STOOP,

CARPENTER AND JOINER. AND GENERAL JOBBER ASTORIA, OREGON.

ar Houses built to order, and satisfaction guaranteed. Shop on Squemocqha street, next door to the Episcopal church. guaranteed.

ASTORIA CANDY FACTORY

-AND-OYSTER SALOON.

AVING ENLARGED MY STORE I HAVING ENLANCED are stand best assortment of plain and French candies h town, also, all kinds of

CAKES, CRACKERS AND BISCUITS. Il of which I offer for sale at the lowes

devious windings of a life-time. The paper fails to inform us whether they anticipate a happy passage across the river of death, powerful superstition that the moon exerted a great influence upon the affairs of mankind, but this idea has prevailed chiefly among those who did not understand the utter impossibility that the moon could exert any such influences. Formerly the stars were supposed to assist the moon in these interferences with mankind and their la bors, and to be able to 'read the stars' was equivalent to the possession of prophetic powers. Now the stars have lost their reputation, and the moon is in a fair way to lose what little is left of it. Formerly crazy people were 'moonstruck,' but now when we see a lunatic (derived from luna, the moon, and really meaning moonstruck) we do not blame the moon for it. The moon has now fallen so low as to be supposed by some to influence only the twining beans on the pole, the planting of seeds, the wasting of fat pork in the pan, unless it was killed under a growing moon, and the making of soft soap. To a reasonable person this seems a small business for the moon to be engaged in, or a very unlikely thing that the moon can exert such influence. If any difference occurs it will be from other causes, such as soil, weather, etc. Observant people have come to the -Mr. Irving, the actor, renders it, absolutely certain that the moon's affect the weather.

