

The Daily Astorian.

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No. 23.

California Wheat.

Why it has Deteriorated—The Estimated Crop of the Union.

N. Y. Dispatch San Francisco Call, Jan. 19.

A San Francisco paper having recently stated that California wheat is deteriorating, R. H. Walker, statistician of the produce exchange, said to-day that this statement need create no alarm as to the country's supply of wheat, either for consumption or export, as the deterioration of the California crop would have no material effect, except in returns to the farmer. The wheat kernel would not be quite as well filled, and hence would not make so large a per centage of flour; but the loss by shrinkage would not be greater than a pound in a bushel. The cause of this deterioration he attributes to the impoverishing of the land by growing upon the same land, year after year, the same kind of crop without the use of fertilizers. The same system is practiced to a large extent on the northwest lands, and the richness is taken from the soil. If there were rotation of crops, or if fertilizers were used, the soil would be kept in good condition; but the farmers, anxious to make every cent possible, spared every item of expense. This was the cause of the deterioration of the lands in New England and in California for wheat-growing purposes, but now the farmers practice either a rotation of crops or "summer-fallowing;" in other words, let the land lie over one season and sow in clover, and when it has attained its summer growth, plow in for fertilizing. Walker stated that the estimated wheat crop of the United States for 1881 is about 480,000,000 bushels, of which California and Oregon would furnish between 50,000,000 and 55,000,000 bushels, but of this amount California and Oregon would require for seed about 1,500,000 bushels, and for consumption for an estimated population of 1,000,000, 4,000,000 bushels. For the rest of the United States there would be required about 50,000,000 bushels for seed, and 200,000,000 bushels for consumption for a population of about 50,000,000 of people. This would make a total of about 250,000,000 bushels for food and seed, leaving a surplus of nearly 230,000,000 for export. The average yield of an acre, according to Walker's estimate, is thirteen bushels, while the English farmer secures about twenty-eight bushels an acre, simply from the free use of fertilizers. Walker stated that in Genesee county and other parts of this state, where, years ago, the farmers obtained as much as thirty bushels an acre, they now get from twelve to fourteen bushels only.

THE EARTH AND THE SUN.

Observations of Distance Made by Astronomer Gill.

Mr. Gill, who succeeded Mr. Stone last year in the direction of the Royal observatory at the cape of Good Hope, has delivered an address at the annual meeting of the South African Philosophical society at cape Town, on the determination of the earth's distance from the sun, which has been printed and circulated, and will be read with interest. In addition to a sketch of the previous history of determinations of this most important element in the solar system, he gives some particulars of his own observations of Mars at the island of Ascension in the autumn of 1877. The method in this determination was originally proposed by Sir George Airy, in 1857, and consisted in utilizing the rotation of the earth as the means of viewing the planet from two separate stations, instead of employing two observers at different points of earth's surface. Thus the observations could at all be made by the same observer, securing, amongst other advantages, a greater probability of their being made in a similar manner. Mr. Gill had previously satisfied himself of the accuracy to be obtained in measuring the angular distance between two neighboring celestial objects by the heliometer, and obtained from Lord Lindsay the loan of a very fine one, with which he was familiar, having used it in the transit of Venus expedition to Mauritius, and (being aided by a vote of money from the Astronomical society) transported to Ascension. With this the observations were accordingly made on twenty-two corresponding mornings and evenings, between July 31 and October 3; the separate results are fairly accordant, and the mean result in a solar equatorial horizontal parallax of 8.782 seconds, giving a distance of 93,070,000 miles. The occasion was a very favorable one, Mars being in perihelion on August 21, a few weeks after the earth was in aphelion, so that the determination is in every point entitled to considerable confidence. Mr. Gill looks forward to being able to make and utilize observations of some of the small planets at the Cape for the solar parallax. The stellar-like appearance offers advantages for this, notwithstanding their greater distance, and something has been already done in this way on the proposition of Dr. Galle, of Breslau. This is chiefly noteworthy as an encouragement to undertake more complete and extended observations for the same purpose.

Subterranean Fungi.

The Strange Forms They Assume When Growing in the Dark.

A gentleman who recently had occasion to explore the chambers, drifts and caverns of the old deserted Ophir and Mexican mines says fungi of every imaginable kind have taken possession of the old levels. In these old mines, undisturbed for years, is found a fungus world in which are to be seen counterfeits of almost everything seen in our daylight world. Owing to the warmth of the old lower levels, and to the presence in them of a certain amount of moisture, the timbers have been made to grow some curious crops. Some of the fungi in the old chambers are several feet in height, and being snow white, resemble sheeted ghosts. In places are what at a little distance appear to be white ovals, and there are representations of ghosts with long beards, all as white as though carved in the purest marble. The rank fungous growth has almost closed some of the drifts. The fungi are of almost every imaginable variety of growth. Some kinds hang down from the timbers like great bunches of Snow-white hair, and others are great pulpy masses. These last generally rise from the rock forming the floor of the drift, and seem to have grown from something dropped or spilled on the ground at the time work was in progress years ago. These growths have in several places raised from the ground rocks weighing from ten to fifty, and even one hundred pounds. Some of the rocks have thus been lifted over three feet from the ground. In the higher levels, where the air is comparatively dry, the fungi are less massive in structure than below and are much firmer in texture. Some resemble ramus horns, as they grow in a spiral or twisted shape, while others, four or five feet in length and about the thickness of a broom-handle, hang from the cap timbers like so many snakes suspended by the tails. One kind, after sending out a stem of the thickness of a pencil to the length of a foot or two, appears to blossom; at least produces at the end a bulbous mass that has some resemblance to a flower. In all the infinite variety of these underground fungi it is somewhat strange that not one was seen at all like those growing upon the surface in the light of day. Nothing in the nature of toad-stools or mushrooms was found.

Horse Education.

In something written we have an indistinct recollection of having made reference to a general disposition among boys in their teens, as well as boys of mature years, to enlighten and bless the world with their profound knowledge of the horse and his history. Our books and newspapers are full of this kind of literature, and it varies in style from the production of the child at school, commencing with: "The horse has four legs and a tail; up to the elegant tribute of the scholar when he quotes from Job: "That his neck is clothed with thunder and the glory of his nostrils is terrible. He smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains and the shouting. Between these two extremes of the child at his first school composition, and the professional literature, we have every grade of pretension, and each professing to have mastered the whole subject. As we approach the close of this nineteenth century, we begin to look for something better in this department of knowledge from those who assume to instruct. And it is to be found in Kendall's Treatise on the horse, sent by mail to any person for twenty-five cents, postage paid. Apply to THE ASTORIAN office, or address D. C. Ireland, Astoria, Oregon.

Teachers Institute Notice.

A teachers institute will be held at the Congregational church in Astoria, on Friday and Saturday, January 28th and 29th, 1881. A special invitation is extended to all who are interested in the schools of the county; and all teachers, whether at present engaged in teaching or not, are especially requested to attend. S. T. MARKAS, Superintendent.

Hose For Sale.

THE UNDERSIGNED COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND WATER ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE Common Council to sell 100 feet of rubber and 100 feet of leather hose, belonging to the Fire Department. Any person wishing to purchase will call on the committee. CHAS. S. WRIGHT, JOHN HAIN, A. J. S. GILG, Committee on Fire and Water.

AMUSEMENTS.

HILL'S VARIETIES.
Geo. Hill, proprietor, Fred Gere, manager.—The entertainment will conclude with "Dr. Fowler" or "Mesmerism," and the "new wedding party" by Nickerson and Staley. The evening amusements to commence with the ever popular first part, Nickerson and Staley, as the funny man, Gene Interlocutor. Miss Morrison in new balads. Morrie in vocal gems. Mr. Richard Bruce with his drum solo. Staley with his champion jig. Gere with his German eccentricities, and a very pathetic laded by a very pathetic individual, whose name pathetically is Nickerson. Nine people on the first part, and an exhibition equal to any on the coast. Mr. Hill invites criticism. Come and see for yourself. New orchestral selections and new music on the grand stand under the leadership of Mr. George Lambert at 7:30 P. M. The entertainment will begin at 7:30 P. M. Entrance on Benton street. Private boxes on Chenamus.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WELCH HILL WATER WORKS.
Furnish pure SPRING WATER to patrons. Custom Solicited. Pipes and general water fixtures furnished on hand. Plumbing at reasonable rates. Office on West Eighth street near O. R. & N. Co's wharf. JAS. W. WELCH, Agent, Astoria, Oregon.

PIKE & STOCKTON.
HOUSE, SIGN
—AND—
CARRIAGE PAINTERS.

PAPER HANGING AND WALL COLORING
—A SPECIALTY—
GLAZING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.
Shop next door to Astorian office, in Shuster's building.

Astoria Market!
OPPOSITE OCCIDENT HOTEL, OREGON.
WARREN & EATON, Proprietors.
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
Fresh and Cured Meats
A full line of
FAMILY GROCERIES, FLOUR, FEED
HAY, CANNED FRUIT, VEGETABLES, ETC.
Butter, Eggs, Cheese, etc. constantly on hand.
Ships supplied at the lowest rates.

GERMANIA BEER HALL
—AND—
BOTTLE BEER DEPOT.
Corner Chenamus Street Astoria.
The Best of Lager 5 Cts. a Glass
Orders for the
Celebrated Columbia Brewery BEER
Left at this place will be promptly delivered in.
No cheap San Francisco Best sold at this place. W. W. BUCK, Proprietor.

BROWN & McCABE.
STEVEDORES AND RIGGERS.
Astoria office—AL E. C. Holden's Auction store. Portland office—24 B street. 10-11

E. R. HAWES,
CHENAMUS STREET, ASTORIA,
IS NOW PREPARED TO DO
ALL KINDS OF PLUMBING AND PIPE WORK.
Bath Tubs, Closets, Etc. Sheet Iron and Tin Work.

J. H. D. GRAY.
Wholesale and retail dealer in
ALL KINDS OF FEED, Hay, Oats, Straw, Wood, Etc.
General storage and Wharfage—on reasonable terms. Foot of Benton street, Astoria, Oregon.

Sheriff's Notice.
THE STATE, COUNTY, AND STATE TAXES FOR 1880
Must be paid before February 1st to save costs and expenses.
A. M. TWOMBLY, Sheriff and Tax Collector, Astoria, Nov. 6th, 1880.

Hose For Sale.
THE UNDERSIGNED COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND WATER ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE Common Council to sell 100 feet of rubber and 100 feet of leather hose, belonging to the Fire Department. Any person wishing to purchase will call on the committee. CHAS. S. WRIGHT, JOHN HAIN, A. J. S. GILG, Committee on Fire and Water.

BANKING AND INSURANCE.

BANKING AND INSURANCE.
I. W. CASE,
BROKER, BANKER
—AND—
INSURANCE AGENT.
ASTORIA, OREGON.
OFFICE HOURS:
FROM 8 O'CLOCK A. M. UNTIL 4 O'CLOCK P. M.

Home Mutual Insurance Co.,
OF CALIFORNIA,
J. F. ROBERTSON, President
CHAS. E. STORY, Secretary
Geo. L. STORY, Agent for Oregon.
Capital paid up in U. S. gold \$ 500,000 00
\$67,000,000 CAPITAL.
LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE.
NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE OF LONDON AND EDINBURGH.
OLD CONNECTICUT OF HARTFORD, AND
COMMERCIAL OF CALIFORNIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.
Representing a capital of \$67,000,000.
A. VAN DUSEN, Agent.

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS.
A. J. NEELER, C. S. WRIGHT
OCCIDENT HOTEL.
MEALEY & WRIGHT, Proprietors.
Astoria, Oregon.

THE PROPRIETORS ARE HAPPY TO announce that the above hotel has been repaired and refurbished, adding greatly to the comfort of its guests and is now the best hotel north of San Francisco.
C. W. KNOWLES, AL ZIEBER.
CLARENDON HOTEL.
PORTLAND, OREGON
ZIEBER & KNOWLES, Proprietors.
Free coach to and from the house.
THE DAILY ASTORIAN is on file at the Clarendon Hotel reading room.

Pioneer Restaurant Hotel.
MAIN STREET, ASTORIA
Mrs. S. X. Arrigoni, Proprietor
THE TRAVELING PUBLIC WILL FIND the Pioneer first class in all respects, and a share of their patronage is respectfully solicited.
Board and lodging by the day or week.

Post-office Restaurant.
MAIN STREET, ASTORIA.
JOSEPH MATTHEWS, PROPRIETOR
THIS IS A FIRST CLASS RESTAURANT kept on the European plan. Fresh oysters in every style. Main street, between Chenamus and Squemoche.

ROSCOE'S FIRST CLASS Oyster Saloon.
MAIN STREET, ASTORIA.
THE UNDERSIGNED IS PLEASED TO announce to the
Ladies' and Gentlemen of this City
That he is now prepared to furnish for them, in first class style, and every style.
OYSTERS, HOT COFFEE, TEA, ETC.

AT THE
Ladies' and Gent's Oyster Saloon,
MAIN STREET.
Please give me a call.
ROSCOE DIXON, Proprietor

The New York Oyster Saloon
Will serve to their customers from this city and foreign sea.
TEA, COFFEE, CHOCOLATE.
Eastern Oysters Always on Hand.
And will be kept as a first class Oyster Saloon, in first class style.
DANIEL GRANT, Manager.

C. K. JACKINS, J. A. MONTGOMERY,
PIONEER STOVE AND TIN STORE
Sole Agents for the
Magee Standard Ranges, Etc.
ASTORIA, OREGON.

E. A. QUINN,
dealer in
FAMILY GROCERIES, NAILS, MILL FEED AND HAY.
Cash paid for country produce. Small profits on cash sales. Astoria, Oregon, corner of Main and Squemoche streets.

WAR IN DECLARED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE
And no terms of peace until every man in Astoria has a new suit of clothes.
MADE BY MEANY.
Look at the prices:
Suits to order from \$8 00
Pants, Genuine French Cassimere 12 50
Suits to order 25 00
The finest line of samples on the coast to select from.
P. J. MEANY,
Merchant Tailor, Parker House, Astoria.

BUSINESS CARDS.

J. Q. A. BOWLBY,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Chenamus Street, - ASTORIA, OREGON

C. W. FULTON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
ASTORIA, OREGON
Office over Page & Allen's store, Cass street

J. W. ROBB,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
ASTORIA, OREGON
Office over Warren & Eaton's Astoria Market, opposite the Occident Hotel.

A. VAN DUSEN,
NOTARY PUBLIC.
Chenamus Street, near Occident Hotel, ASTORIA, OREGON.
Agent Wells, Fargo & Co.

W. D. BAKER, M. D.
Office—Next door to Capt. Rogers residence, Cass Street.
OFFICE HOURS—From 9 A. M. to 11 A. M. and from 2 P. M. to 4 P. M.

F. P. HICKS,
DENTIST,
ASTORIA, OREGON.
Rooms in Allen's building up stairs, corner of Cass and Squemoche streets.

DR. M. D. JENNINGS,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
Graduate University of Virginia, 1868. Physician to Bay View hospital, Baltimore City, 1869-70.
OFFICE—In Page & Allen's building, up stairs, Astoria.

JAY TUTTLE, M. D.
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
OFFICE—Over the White Horse Store.
RESIDENCE—Next door to Mrs. Munson's boarding house, Chenamus street, Astoria, Oregon.

J. C. ORCHARD,
DENTIST.
Dental Rooms, SHUSTER'S Photograph Building.

D. A. McINTOSH,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
Occident Hotel Building,
ASTORIA, OREGON

C. H. BAIN & CO.,
DEALER IN
Doors, Windows, Blinds, Transoms, Lumber, Etc.
All kinds of Oak Lumber, Glass, Boat Material, etc.
Steam Mill near Weston hotel, Cor. Genesee and Astor streets.

S. G. INGALLS,
GLAZIER.
ASTORIA, OREGON.
Will contract for work in his line and furnish the glass. Small jobs done at Occident Hotel, next door to the corner of Jefferson street, Astoria, Oregon.

J. G. FAIRFOWL & SON,
STEVEDORES AND RIGGERS
Portland and Astoria, Oregon.
Refer by permission to—Hogers, Meyers & Co., Allen & Lewis, Corbett & Macleay, Portland, Oregon.

W. M. UHLENHART,
Occident Hotel Hair Dressing Saloon
ASTORIA, OREGON.
Hot, Cold, Shower, Steam and Sulphur BATHS.
Special attention given to ladies' and children's hair cutting.
Private Entrance for Ladies.

WILLIAM FRY,
PRACTICAL
BOOT AND SHOE MAKER.
CHENAMUS STREET, opposite Adler's Book Store, - ASTORIA, OREGON.
Perfect fits guaranteed. All work warranted. Give me a trial. All orders promptly filled.

First Class Saloon,
J. J. RILEY, PROPRIETOR,
On the Boardwalk, opposite the Oregon Railway and Navigation Co's wharf.
New Bagatelle Table,
(The Chinese must go.)
The choicest brands of foreign and domestic WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.
Best Chicago Beer—50

J. T. BORCHERS,
CONCOMLY STREET, ASTORIA,
Manufacturer and Packer of
CAVIAR, SMOKED SALMON.
Cash paid for fresh
BLACK STURGEON SPAWN.
Smoked Sturgeon, and smoked Salmon put up in tins to ship to any part of the world. Also, trout bait (salmon eggs) put up in cans and warranted to keep any length of time. Depot at Rogers Central Market, corner of Cass and Chenamus streets, Astoria.

Music Lessons.
T. F. CULLEN and C. E. BARNES,
TEACHERS OF
VIOLIN, PIANO, GUITAR, CORNET AND BANJO.
Would like a few pupils on either of the above instruments.
Terms—Eight dollars for six months.
Orders left at Strongs & Sons book store will be promptly attended to.