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No. 57.

WORK AND WANT IN THE "BLACK COUNTRY."

Robert P. Porter, in a letter to the N. Y. Tribune, written from Lye Waste, Worcestershire, England, says:

This region of country is located part in the county of Stafford and part in that of Worcester. The district is badly drained; not lighted except by the flames of the furnaces and forges. It is said that about 24,000 persons are engaged in this dismal district making nails and rivets. Though within seven miles of the great and prosperous city of Birmingham, no one seems to know or care about this army of men, women, young girls and children condemned to a life of wretched slavery. The district itself has aptly been described as a grimy chaos. Huge mounds of black and dirty-white rubbish; melancholy asses cropping the sparse, shriveled herbage on the banks of worked-out pits; stagnant pools, spreading like dead seas between the jumbled, natural and artificial hills; cinder-strewn meadows threaded by filthy foot-paths ending at smutty stiles; high roads fringed with a weary continuity of dingy red-brick houses, in the midst of which a yellow-washed house looks almost as pure as a lily; small boys clustered on the roads, kicking and punching and bespattering their smaller feminine acquaintances; bigger ones loafing around the little dingy public houses; narrow, ragged hedged lanes, leading nowhere in particular, pit-falled with inky puddles through which unwashed, unshaven, heavy-booted men flounder and splash, with their hands in their coat pockets, and vicious looking dogs covering at their heels; jaundiced canals crowded with lanky black barges; sloping tramways, almost obliterated by gritty, viscous black mud; crossing and converging railways, with roadside stations that look like recently emptied soot-warehouses; gibbeted black colliery wheels; dilapidated engine houses and cottages sinking, on one side, into the undermined earth; dingy red and clay-colored cones and domes, iron works furnaces and chimneys of all kinds, sending up smoke and flames. This is no exaggerated picture of what I saw in my walk, which began at Dudley, and thence via Netherton, Rowley, Regis, Cradley, Stourbridge, through this dismal place, and back to Halesowen.

The inhabitants of this desolate district are among the most industrious, and yet the most wretched in England. They are engaged in making all sorts of nails, rivets and chains. The work is done in little "smithies" attached to the hovels in which the workers reside, and for which the usual rent seems to be about 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. a week—a trifle over 50 cents. These houses, as a rule, contain little or no furniture. They are filthy and wretched beyond description. What spare time the unhappy nailer's wife gets from nursing the baby and preparing the meager meals, is spent in the smithy fire, pounding away at the anvil until late at night. But the extra work that the woman does, combined with that of one child—say a girl of 14—will barely keep the family from starvation. For example: An expert nailer, working steady from Monday morning to Friday night, can only make two and one-half bundles of iron rods into nails, for which he gets 6s. 7 1/2 d. per bundle, or, for his week's work, 16s. 8d.—exactly \$4. Now, his wife, by working every moment of her spare time and late into the night—neglecting the wretched little children—can make a bundle of common nails, for which she is paid 3s. 1d., and the little half-starved, stunted girl of fourteen, with her brown arms, and steady, unerring aim, will hammer out half a bundle, 1s. 6 1/2 d. In this way mothers, daughters and mere children toil and slave on from year to year—indeed, one man told me nails had been

made here for over a century in this way. How they exist is a mystery to me. The London Standard has dared to speak out on the condition of labor in the Black Country, and when the paper makes the following statement, I can say that it actually accords with some of the horrible facts which have come within my observation during my stay in this dismal region:

"Women within a few days of their confinement have been known to work in the agony of exhaustion in order to earn a few pence at the 'hearth'—not the 'hearth' of home, but the 'hearth' of the forge; they have been known to return to work in a day or two after childbirth, emaciated in constitution weak and weary from the want of simple nourishment. Their children, ragged and ill-fed, have had to lead miserable and wretched lives, with no hope before them but a life of wickedness and vice."

Odors on Milk. The London Milk Journal cites instances where milk that has stood a short time in the presence of persons sick with the typhoid fever, or been handled by parties before they are quite recovered from the small-pox, has spread these diseases as effectually as if the persons themselves had been present. Scarlatina, measles and other contagious diseases have been spread in the same way. The peculiar scent of a cellar is indelibly impressed upon all the butter made from milk standing in it. A few puffs from a pipe or cigar will scent all the milk in a room, and a smoking lamp will do the same. A pail of milk standing ten minutes where it will take the scent of a strong-smelling stable, or any other odor, will imbibe a taint that will never leave it. A maker of gilt-edged butter objects to cooling warm milk in the room where his milk stands for the cream to rise, because he says the odor escaping from the new milk while cooling is taken in by the other milk and retained, to the injury of his butter. This may seem like descending to small things, but it must be remembered that it is the sum of such little things that determines whether the products of the dairy are to be sold at cost or below, or as a high-priced luxury. If milk is to be converted into an article of the latter class it must be handled and kept in clean and sweet vessels, and must stand in pure, fresh air, such as would be desirable and healthy for persons to breathe.

C. Widenmann communicates a new method of making an invisible ink to Die Natur. To make the writing or drawing appear which has been made upon paper with the ink, it is sufficient to dip it into water. On drying, the traces disappear again, and reappear by each succeeding immersion. The ink is made by intimately mixing linsed oil, 1 part; water of ammonia 20 parts; water, 100 parts. The mixture must be agitated each time before the pen is dipped into it, as a little of the oil may separate and float on top, which would leave an oily stain upon the paper.

Three Conquered. Three seems to be the number of fortune and progress. The third effort wins, and the following as related by Mr. M. E. Dodge, Belfast, Me., is no exception: I had a man in my employ last winter who was badly afflicted with acute rheumatism. He applied many different remedies without obtaining any relief, until I bought him a bottle of the Great German Remedy, St. Jacobs Oil. After applying three bottles of the Oil, he was completely cured and has never been troubled with rheumatism since. It beats all the remedies I ever saw or heard of.

As Spring with its change of weather creates a revolution in the very bowels of the earth, so does Pfunder's celebrated Oregon Blood Purifier create the desired change in the human system. Send in your orders either direct to Pfunder & Co., or any wholesale house in Portland. Brace up the whole system with King of the Blood. See Advertisement.

Gathering and Drying Tea in Japan.

Tea gathering is commenced in May. Girls are employed, at an average of five cents a day, from sunrise to sunset. The sprig of leaves is nipped off carefully with the finger nails and deposited in a basket; and other servants carry these baskets as they are filled, to the tea planter's house and necessary out-houses. Here other employes spread them out on large palm mats and here the first and only adulteration essayed by the tea planter is executed. Having decided the percentage of exhausted leaves to mix with his fresh leaves these are put also on the mats. The drying is in the open air and in the sunlight. That having been completed, the next operation is the curling. To effect this the dried leaves are poured into open cast-iron receptacles over a charcoal furnace beneath of accurately graded heat. Sufficient laborers are placed around these pans to constantly take in their hands the leaves as they become heated and to roll them. When the curling is done the leaves are packed in coarse, cheap boxes, freighted to the nearest tea market and there sold to foreign tea dealers. Every foreigner keeps a special variety of tea-taster, who has to tell the quality of the fresh leaf and to make a guess at the amount of leaves that have already done service.

The fruit crop of the whole North Pacific shows the effect of the season. Western Oregon and Washington will have small yield of all fruits, owing to the premature opening of spring. The pleasant month of March induced the flowering of fruit trees earlier than usual. Then came a month of cold rains that checked the flow of sap and fruit blighted. This is unusual, and we do not recollect in all the history of the country such a failure. Some varieties do much better than others. The cool weather of May has not favored orchards and young fruit fell from the trees all that month. East of the Cascades orchards suffered from severe winter weather. Fruit will be light in all directions. Those who have a good yield are fortunate and will find a ready market for all they have.—Willamette Farmer.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure.

NEVILLE & CO. SAN FRANCISCO, April 11th, 1883. DEAR SIR: For general convenience, we have sent a supply of No. 20, 12 1/2 lb Genuine Scotch Salmon Net Twine, to the care of A. M. JOHNSON & CO., Astoria, which will be sold at low enough figures to make it an object for all net menders to use it for repairs, in place of the more costly No. 40, 12 1/2 lb.

RUDDOCK & LEVAK. PRACTICAL PLUMBERS. Gas and Steam Fitters. Have constantly on hand a general assortment of goods in our line. Jobbing promptly attended to. Estimates given. N. R.—We guarantee our work. Shop nearly opposite to R. & N. Co's dock.

FOARD & STOKES, FINE GROCERIES.—AND—PROVISIONS. ANCHORS, ROPE AND CORDAGE. HARNESS AT SAN FRANCISCO PRICES. A Full Line of House Furnishing Goods. AT THE O. R. & N. DOCK.

St. Jacob's Oil THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Soreness of the Chest, Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and Scalds, General Bodily Pains, Tooth, Ear and Headache, Frost-bitten Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.

STEAMER "RELIC." WILL MAKE TRIPS AS FOLLOWS: To YOUNG'S RIVER, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Special trips as required. Will leave Wilson & Fishers' wharf at 9 o'clock sharp, each morning. LEWIS G. HAYDEN, Upper Astoria, Master.

REGULAR STEAM PACKET. "Daisy," and Barge. Will leave Astoria, from Gray's Dock, for Olney, and Head of Youngs River, on Tuesdays and Fridays, at 9 A. M. Returning same day. For Landings on Lewis & Clark's River, on Wednesdays, at 8 A. M. Returning same day. For Finner's Camp, on Fridays, at 3 P. M., laying over night at the Camp, will leave for Astoria, on Saturdays, at 8 A. M. Returning will leave Astoria, at 3 P. M.

NEVILLE & CO. Pacific Net and Twine Co. SAN FRANCISCO, April 11th, 1883. DEAR SIR: For general convenience, we have sent a supply of No. 20, 12 1/2 lb Genuine Scotch Salmon Net Twine, to the care of A. M. JOHNSON & CO., Astoria, which will be sold at low enough figures to make it an object for all net menders to use it for repairs, in place of the more costly No. 40, 12 1/2 lb.

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SHIPPING NOTICES. Columbia Transportation Co. FOR PORTLAND. (FAST TIME.) FLEETWOOD. Which has been refitted for the comfort of passengers will leave Wilson and Fishers' dock every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 A. M. arriving at Portland at 7 P. M. Returning leaves Portland every Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 A. M. Arriving at Astoria at 1 P. M. An additional trip will be made on Sunday of Each Week, leaving Portland at 9 o'clock Sunday Morning.

ASTORIA AND PORTLAND. Str. WESTPORT, F. H. SHERMAN, MASTER. Will make regular trips to Portland and Astoria, leaving Burnell's dock, foot of Morrison Street, Portland, at 6 A. M. Saturdays, Astoria, at 8 A. M. Thursdays. Freight collected at reasonable rates. 25¢ Freight collected at reasonable rates.

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A. M. JOHNSON & Co. Dealers in Ship Chandlery and Groceries. CROCKERY & GLASS WARE. Also Wholesale Dealers in Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Glass, Putty, Artists' Oil and Water Colors, Paint and Kalsomine Brushes.

LOEB & CO., JOBBERS IN WINES, LIQUORS, AND CIGARS. AGENTS FOR THE Best San Francisco Houses and Eastern Distilleries. Tumblers, Decanters, and All Kinds of Saloon Supplies.

MAGNUS C. CROSBY, Dealer in HARDWARE, IRON, STEEL, Iron Pipe and Fittings, PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS. Goods and Tools, SHEET LEAD STRIP LEAD SHEET IRON TIN AND COPPER. Cannery and Fishermen's Supplies, Stoves, Tin Ware and House Furnishing Goods. JOBING IN SHEET IRON, TIN, COPPER PLUMBING AND STEAM FITTING. Done with neatness and dispatch. A large assortment of SCALES constantly on hand.

TRANSPORTATION LINES. Oregon-Railway & Navigation COMPANY. OCEAN DIVISION. On and after April 1st, 1883. Ocean Steamers will sail from San Francisco and Portland every three days, leaving Spear St. wharf San Francisco, at 10:30 A. M., and Aloworth Dock, Portland, at Midnight.

ASTORIA TO PORTLAND. Steamer Wide West will leave Astoria for Portland, 1 P. M. Returning, leaves Portland for Astoria, 5 A. M. daily, Wednesdays excepted. Pullman Palace Cars running between Portland, Walla Walla and Dupont. JOHN MITCHELL, Superintendent of Traffic. C. H. PRESCOTT, Manager.

IWACO STEAM NAVIGATION CO. WINTER SCHEDULE. Astoria to Fort Stevens, Canby, and Ilwaco, Connecting by Stages for Oysterville and Olympia. Util further notice the Ilwaco Steam Navigation Co's steamers GEN. MILES, ORGEN. CANBY Will leave Astoria on Mondays, and Thursdays, at 7 A. M.

OREGON & CALIFORNIA R.R. CO. On an after May 13, 1883, trains will run as follows, DAILY (except Sundays) Between PORTLAND and GLENDALE. MAIL TRAIN. LEAVE PORTLAND 7:00 A. M. GLENDALE 10:50 P. M. ARRIVE GLENDALE 1:00 A. M. PORTLAND 5:50 P. M.

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CHAS. H. WILLIAMSON & CO. REAL ESTATE AND General Commission Brokers. Office corner Cass and Chenamus streets, with John Rogers. A General Agency business transacted. BOZORTH & JOHNS. Real Estate Dealers. A general Agency business transacted. Have Columbia City, Alderbrook, Astoria and Seaside property for sale.

1845. NEW YORK LIFE. 1883. Assets: \$50,000,000.00. Income: \$1,500,000.00. Paid Death Losses: \$10,000,000.00. Increase in Insurance: \$10,000,000.00. For further particulars, apply for Annual Report at the office, 64 and 66 FROST STREET, PORTLAND, ORE. DONALD ROSS, General Agent for Oregon and Washington Territory.

WILLIAM HOWE. DOORS, WINDOWS, BLINDS, TRANSOMS, LUMBER. OAK LUMBER, GLASS, TURNING AND Bracket Work. Boats of all Kinds Made to Order.

S. ARNDT & FERCHEN, ASTORIA - OREGON. The Pioneer Machine Shop. BOILER WORK. Steamboat work. A specialty made of repairing CANNERY DIES, FOOT OF LAFAYETTE STREET.

ASTORIA IRON WORKS. BENTON STREET, NEAR PARKER HOUSE, ASTORIA - OREGON. GENERAL MACHINISTS AND BOILER MAKERS. LAND AND MARINE ENGINES. Boiler Work, Steamboat Work and Cannery Work a specialty.

A. V. ALLEN, (SUCCESSOR TO PAGE & ALLEN.) Groceries, Provisions, Crockery. Glass and Plated Ware, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. Wines, Liquors, Tobacco, Cigars.

WILSON & FISHER, SHIP CHANDLERS. DEALERS IN Iron, Steel, Coal, Anchors, Chains, TAR, PITCH, OAKUM, WROUGHT AND CUT GALVANIZED SPIRES, Nails, Copper Nails and Burrs, Shelf Hardware, Paints and Oils, Rubber and Hemp Packing of all kinds.

WALL PAPER. THE LATEST STYLES IN WALL PAPER. B. B. FRANKLIN'S, NEXT DOOR TO ASTORIAN OFFICE. A very large Stock from which to select. My patent Trimmer to cut Wall Paper will be found convenient to my patrons.

BUSINESS CARDS. E. C. HOEL, NOTARY PUBLIC, AUCTIONEER, COMMISSION AND INSURANCE AGENT. G. E. F. PARKER, SURVEYOR OF Clatsop County, and City of Astoria. Office—Chenamus street, Y. M. C. A. hall Room No. 8. F. D. WINTON, Attorney and Counselor at Law. Office in Pythian Building, Rooms 11, 12 ASTORIA - OREGON. JAY TUTTLE, M. D. PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Office—Rooms 1, 2, and 3, Pythian Building. RESIDENCE—Over J. K. Thomas' Drug Store. F. P. SICKS, DENTIST. ASTORIA - OREGON. Rooms in Allen's building, up stairs, corner of Cass and Spennock streets. J. A. BOYD, ATTORNEY AT LAW. Chenamus St., - - ASTORIA - OREGON. J. JONES, STAIR BUILDER, Ship and Steamboat Joiner. MISS LINEKER. FASHIONABLE DRESSMAKER. Suits made in the Latest Style, and on short notice. Painted Flowers on the Dresses. Ladies are invited to call and see samples of this fine work. PRICES REASONABLE. GENERAL STEAMSHIP AGENCY. Bills of Exchange on any Part of Europe. I AM AGENT FOR THE FOLLOWING lines: STATE LINE, RED STAR, WHITE STAR, HAMBURG-AMERICAN, D. MONTON LINE, NATIONAL and AMERICAN LINE. Prepaid tickets to or from any European port. For full information as to rates of fare, sailing days, etc., apply to L. W. CASE. CLATSOP MILL COMPANY, Successors of GEO. W. HUME SAW MILL. MANUFACTURERS & DEALERS IN LUMBER, BALCON BOXES, TRAYS, ETC. Office and Mill CORNER OF WEST 9TH AND WATER STS.