

# The Daily Astorian.

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## PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF WYOMING.

Some writer has said that no portion of the globe is at this time so full of mighty possibilities, or rich in promises for the future, as the broad stretch of rich territory lying west of the Mississippi, and this assertion comes as near the truth as a newspaper man dare get. But a few years ago this portion of the Union was, very appropriately, termed a wilderness. The coyotes squatting in the shelter of the umbreous sage tree sang his tuneful lay, and the cacti stood sadly in the midst of the wide expanse of country known as the Laramie plains, with no human being to love it and cherish it—and sit down on it. The very thought of an orphan cactus being doomed to sit in eternal silence, with no kind word or look for centuries, with no picnic party and no soft-eyed young man with ice-cream pants on to come and nestle lovingly down upon its fuzzy bosom, is sad enough to draw tears from the eyes of Bob Ingersoll himself—at the usual Star Route price. Until lately, too, the Westerner who ventured across the Missouri river, was looked upon as a curiosity, and the people watched him with apprehension for fear he might be loaded. Within the last half score of years, however, the West, particularly this portion of it, has waltzed to the front and demanded recognition among the countries of the world, and got it too. \* \* \* The only objection to farming on the plains is that the land comes pretty high—about 8,000 feet. The assertion, however, that there is always a sea breeze blowing at that elevation, just moving the leaves of the trees and blowing the cellar doors from under the houses occasionally, is false. True, sometimes a whisper of wind springs up on the starboard jib and blows about due west by galley-west for an hour or two, but nothing heavier than corner lots with big mortgages on them have been blown away that we ever heard of.

Raising cattle is Wyoming's chief industry at this writing. With a good branding iron the humble ranchman can get up a pretty nice little herd in a few years. One man who went into the cattle business up in the Sweetwater four or five years ago, with an I. C. mule and a healthy branding iron, is now worth a million. He carried a charcoal furnace with him, and had the brand tied to a rope. He kept the iron hot, and could throw it so as to leave his brand on every maverick he saw, if he could get within twenty yards of it. He just branded all the cattle he could find every spring and let nature take her course.

"I tell you, pard," said old Jimmy Cannon, the guide, to the writer recently, "the West has lost its romance. Only a little while ago, it seemed to me, where once there was nothing but the whoop of the Indian and the song of the six-shooter, now there are railroads and churches, and commercial men, and high schools, and three-card monte men, and lecturers, and daily newspapers, and, every little while, a natural death. Why, within the last two months, if the blasted papers tell the truth, several men have died in Wyoming of disease. I tell you it looks as though us old-timers would have to move away. When we have to wait for lingering disease to snuff us out, it's time to light out for the frontier."—*Laramie Boomerang.*

In his speech at the reunion of the survivors of John H. Morgan's command in Lexington, Ky., General Basil W. Duke concluded as follows: "We often hear it said that the men of both sides believed they were right. This plan may be regarded as sufficient. But I am sometimes inclined to believe that, paradoxical as it may sound, both sides were right, and that history will so declare."

## The Salmon Disease.

An interesting lecture was recently delivered by Professor Huxley at the fisheries-exhibition congress upon the disease which makes such ravages among freshwater fish, particularly the salmon, and sometimes in the form of an epidemic. This disease, which is marked by the appearance of whiteish patches on the skin of the fish, is attended with great mortality. In the last five years from 2,000 to 4,000 diseased fish have been taken out of the Tweed, and like number from the Eden every year. Last year as many as 600 diseased salmon were taken out of a small river like the Lune. On the east coast a few cases have appeared in the Coquet, but none in the Wear. On the Tyne the disease is almost unknown among clean salmon, but it is common with kelts and dace. It may be said that there has been practically no epidemic outbreak in the eastern rivers south of the Tweed. The eccentric course of the epidemic, however, is shown in the fact that on the west coast the state of affairs is totally different, it having made its appearance more and more to the south, until last season it broke out in the Usk and Wye. The disease is due to the fungus *saprolegnia ferax*, which abounds in Irish waters, however, the West, particularly this portion of it, has waltzed to the front and demanded recognition among the countries of the world, and got it too. \* \* \* The only objection to farming on the plains is that the land comes pretty high—about 8,000 feet. The assertion, however, that there is always a sea breeze blowing at that elevation, just moving the leaves of the trees and blowing the cellar doors from under the houses occasionally, is false. True, sometimes a whisper of wind springs up on the starboard jib and blows about due west by galley-west for an hour or two, but nothing heavier than corner lots with big mortgages on them have been blown away that we ever heard of.

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