

# The Daily Astorian.

(1)

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No. 2.

## ODD THINGS TO BE SEEN IN THE WEST.

Since I came into Colorado I have played at snow-ball on the last day of July. I have seen ladies scrape away the snow and pick flowers from the ground under the snow, and I have seen red ripe strawberries picked from green bushes after kicking off a foot of snow from over them. This at Alpine Pass.

I have seen men on horseback along the railroad tracks, where we have men afoot, as track-walkers; have seen these horsemen draw out a red flag and ride bareback a dare-devil gallop over the ties, to flag a train.

I have seen the ticket agent at Marshal's Pass, 10,725 feet altitude, sitting by a roaring fire in his office, July 20th, while outside ladies were gathering wild flowers and berries, the thermometer 44 degrees in the shade.

I have seen Mexican girls with castanets dancing a fandango, wearing nothing but a few sun-flowers in their long black hair, unabashed in the presence of a hundred onlookers.

I have seen in the streets of twenty saloon towns open gambling hells, with a sign above the door, "Cards and Rum."

I have seen on the streets of Denver splendid houses, the occupation of whose female inmates was too plainly indicated by a transparency gas lamp suspended in the vestibule.

I have seen mountains of rocks thousands of feet high, with the stones arranged layer upon layer, as if built by a mason, as regularly and carefully laid, and I have seen standing in the middle of a plain a flat stone, on its edge, 330 feet to the top. And I have seen in the Royal Gorge a mountain over 2,000 feet high, all seeming one solid stone, without a crack or crevice, actually one big solid rock.

I have seen specimens of coal brought from the same mountain, one from an anthracite vein proving up 89 per cent carbon, and another of bituminous coal from a vein eight feet thick, and from a tested field of 3,500 acres owned by one man.

I have seen an open Bible lying on an elegantly carved oak altar at the entrance of a rum shop and gambling den at Leadville, and above the Bible a sign painted, saying, "Please kind friends, don't sweat."

I have ridden in a palace car on a Rio Grande railroad, the name of which, painted on its side in gilt letters was, "The Blood of Jesus," followed by another car named "Heart of the Savior."

I have traveled nearly 2,000 miles over territory west of the Missouri river in a land which my mind had peopled with Indians, and have not seen an Indian on the whole trip—not one—except two filthy squaws on the station platform at Cheyenne.—*Cor. Exchange.*

It is strongly suspected that the recent fire at Olympia, which destroyed the U. S. land office, was an incendiary act to secure the destruction of records which would implicate certain parties in the crime of fraudulent land entries. An ugly disclosure in the affair, too, is the wretched carelessness on the part of the U. S. government in not suitably protecting such valuable records against loss by fire. It seems that besides housing the office in a combustible building, there was not even the precaution taken of providing a night watchman.—*Spo-kane Chronicle.*

## Forty Chinamen Killed.

Yesterday afternoon a fearful explosion occurred at the California Powder company's works, which were located about a mile beyond Powell Station, Contra Costa county, and some 200 yards from the bay. The report was distinctly heard in Oakland and in this city, and the trembling of the ground from the terrific concussion could be felt for over fifteen miles distant from the works. The first and chief explosion occurred in the mixing house, where explosions usually occur. It appears that the mixing house and the packing house at the California works are very close together. The explosion therefore caused a complete wreck of these two departments.

At the time of the explosion forty-two Chinamen were at work in the mixing and packing house. When the smoke cleared away from the scene of the explosion, the people in the neighborhood, familiar with the fearfully fatal results usually attending such disasters, rushed to learn the result. At seven o'clock last evening but two Chinese survivors could be found. The loss of life, so far as learned, at that time, therefore, is one white man and forty Chinamen. The name of the white foreman was Weller. The bodies of many of the victims are mutilated badly.—*N. F. Bulletin 30.*

A Victoria, B. O., *Sun* correspondent says: Underground railroads from China are in full operation and the business of smuggling Chinamen across into the United States is well organized and tolerably prosperous. Chinamen in Victoria have not the least trouble in finding a British subject or a coast Indian, who will engage for three, five or ten dollars to set him ashore on the soil of the United States. An intelligent revenue officer at Port Townsend said 1,000 is a low estimate for the Chinese smuggled across during the past ten months. The Chinese themselves look upon British Columbia merely as an open gateway to the United States. They do not live here as they do at Portland and Seattle. Their colony in Victoria is manifestly unprosperous. In Helena and other Montana cities, the Chinese own considerable land. No Chinaman has yet bought an acre of land along the Northern Pacific.

The cod fishermen of the Banks will hereafter endeavor to go to sea provided with a liberal allowance of oil with which to calm troubled waters. There is no doubt about its efficacy. The plan was tried by many vessels of the Gloucester fleet during the recent heavy gales, and probably saved many of them from being badly damaged, if not entirely wrecked, by the terrible seas. The effect is almost magical, as the oil dripping into the water prevents the sea from breaking and the vessel is enabled to ride safely on the waves.

The Nickel-plate Railroad, which was supposed to have been acquired by the Vanderbilts through their purchase of \$26,000,000 in stocks, is about to be contested by the holders of the first mortgage bonds in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

A convention of representatives of all classes interested in annual industries of the United States will be held in Chicago, Thursday and Friday, November 15th and 16th, for conference concerning contagious diseases among domestic animals.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, noting the sudden rise and rapid growth of towns along the line of the Northern Pacific railroad, says: "Ten years ago there was hardly a hut on the long line through Dakota. The great majority of the settlers came on the railroad, not as the first pioneers. The pioneers of to-day cross the Alleghenies and the Valley of the Mississippi with all their eastern civilization as thoroughly developed as at home. The ladies dress in the fashion of the day. Their chinaware and glassware are fine, and they eat with silver forks. Some piano fortes have already arrived, and others are coming."



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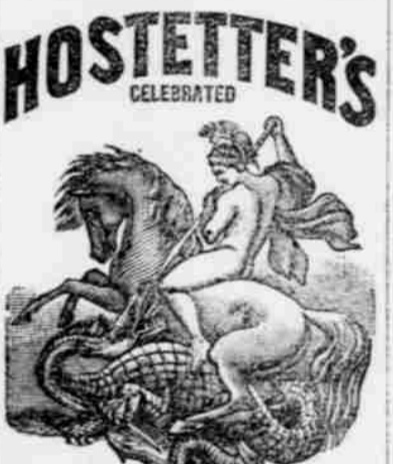
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