

The Daily Morning Astorian.

VOL. XX. NO. 83.

ASTORIA, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1884.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

THE LANDED PATRIMONY.

The people of the United States own the public lands. They have never been owned by the Federal government in any other than a nominal sense, and only in that sense because the government represents the people. The waste of this patrimony has been enormous. There have been bills before congress during the last ten years which, if they had become laws, would have appropriated every acre of these public lands, leaving not a foot of the public domain to be converted into homesteads by private individuals. Many of the grants made by congress for public improvement have been tainted by fraud, either in the inception, or at some stage of the proceedings while the land was passing from the government to the corporations. These frauds, irregularities, lapses and defaults will be scrutinized as never before. No harm can come to the public through such scrutiny. Where there are equities they should be respected. Where there are frauds they should not be respected. It is probable that we have come to the end of the land grant business. An immense area of the public domain was turned over to the corporations to help along what were called public improvements. These improvements had only a quasi public character. They were private enterprises assisted by Federal resources. The result of the system was that a land department was organized outside of the government which controlled immense tracts of public land, and for years kept other large tracts out of the market. The landed interest of certain railway corporations became really more important than that controlled by the Federal government. Two systems were found side by side. The influence of the corporate system of land grants has not, on the whole, been wholesome. It has provoked many antagonisms and a great deal of bad feeling. All of this could have been avoided by a strict adherence to the original system of selling public lands only to actual settlers, and these only in limited quantities. The government has been too liberal in concessions of public lands. It has been cheated by corporations, and it has been cheated by individuals. It is being cheated to-day.

Scared by Fenians.

The report that the Fenian Brotherhood at Buffalo intended to make Canada the basis of operations to avenge the death of O'Donnell was at first received through Canada as a joke, but it is said that the government detectives, after an investigation, have reported that there is something in the movement and that a secret service fund has been put into operation. From a tolerably reliable source it has been learned that the first aggressive move will be the capture of the Marquis of Lansdowne when he visits Toronto next spring, and that, following this, will be the blowing up of some government property in the vicinity of Toronto. Several invincibles have been tracked from Buffalo to Toronto, and the government is said to be in possession of evidence connecting them with certain secret societies there. How far they have succeeded in maturing their plans is unknown to the general public, but it is expected that some new developments will shortly be made. It is more than probable that the Canadian authorities will early in the session of congress draw the attention of the United States government to the fact that societies, having for their object raiding across the Dominion frontier, are in existence in that country, and requesting that some action be taken to prevent a recurrence of the scenes of 1866.

A Prehistoric Reservoir.

"I've seen a good many curious things in my travels," said a commercial traveler, "but the Walled Lake of Iowa rather lays over everything I ever saw. Just imagine a body of water covering nearly 3,000 acres, with a wall all around it, not a stone of which can be less than 100 pounds in weight, and some as heavy as three tons, and yet there's not a single stone to be found within ten miles of the lake. The wall is ten feet high, about fifteen feet wide at the bottom, and may be five on top. The country is prairie land for miles around, except a belt of heavy timber that encircles the lake. This timber is oak, and it is plain the trees were planted there. They are very large. The belt is probably half a mile wide. The water in the lake is probably twenty-five feet deep, as cold as ice and as clear as crystal.

"What I would like to know, is, who built that wall? And how did they hold the water back while they were building it? And how do they cut those immense stones for ten miles? If ever you go to Iowa, don't fail to visit the Walled Lake. You'll find it in Wright county, 100 miles from Dubuque. The cars will take you almost to it."

E Pluribus Unum appears on the standard silver dollar. It has not appeared on any coins since 1863. The national motto was dropped from the gold coins in 1834 and from the silver twenty-five cent piece in 1836, and the following year from all silver coins. It first appeared in 1786. The next year after that a \$16 gold piece was struck with Unum E Pluribus on it. Only four of those coins are known to exist, and they are valued at \$2,000. This may seem quite a sum, yet if the owner of the \$16 piece had put it at a reasonable interest, compounded every three months, it would have amounted to more than \$2,000 in a century. Compound interest speedsily pluripluribus capital if the bank doesn't pluripluribus.

The average of life in England exceeds that of France by eleven years, though the French climate is considered superior.

LIFE'S HISTORY.

JOHN G. SAGE.
Say, what is life? 'Tis to be born;
A helpless babe to greet the light
With a sharp wail, as if the morn
Foretold a cloudy noon and night;
To weep, to sleep, and weep again,
With sunny smiles between—and then?
And then space the infant grows
To be a laughing, sprightly boy,
Happy, despite his little woes,
Were he but conscious of his joy!
To be, in short, from two to ten,
A merry, moody child—and then?
And then in coat and trousers clad,
To learn to say the decalogue,
And break it, an unthinking lad,
With mirth and mischief all agog;
A truant yet, by field and fen,
And capture butterflies—and then?
And then increased in length and size,
To be, anon, a youth full grown,
A young Apollo in his own;
To imitate the ways of men
In fashionable sin—and then?
And then, at last, to be a man,
To fall in love, to woo and wed!
With seeking train to scheme and plan
To gather gold or toil for bread;
To sue for fame with tongue and pen,
And gain or lose the prize—and then?
And then in gray and wrinkled eids,
To mourn the speed of life's decline;
To praise the scene our youth beheld,
And dwell in memory of long years,
To dream awhile of darkened ken,
To drop into his grave—and then?

The Manner in Which a Millionaire Feeds.

Joseph E. Brown of Georgia is the wealthiest and one of the oldest United States Senators. He is one of the plainest men to be found anywhere. He may be called a "home grumpy." He wears long white whiskers and store clothes. He is fond of old-fashioned things, especially old-time dinners. The other day he sat in the cloak room on the Democratic side of the Senate, with a number of his old Senatorial friends, smoking and joking. Finally the conversation turned on dinners and good things to eat. Senator Butler of South Carolina knows a good dinner as well as any man when it is served out to him and in his most eloquent terms he told of how he liked canvas-back ducks and snaterne, and Canada grouse and champagne, and terrapin and good old sherry, and how he wanted it served up hot, with a royal old crowd of boys about him. Then several other Senators named their favorite dishes. Senator Brown sat and listened, while a stream of water trickled out of his mouth. Finally he broke in:
"Well, gentlemen, you may talk of your terrapin and champagne, and your crowds, and all that, but you may dish up old Jo Brown and his old woman puddle duck and sweet potatoes."

And he wiped his mouth on his coat-sleeve and fairly worked his jaws at the thought of it.

Speculators in timber lands on this coast are taking advantage of the Act passed five years ago for the benefit of settlers and have acquired possession of large tracts of land by the evasion of that law, accompanied by perjury. General Browne of Indiana received a letter lately from a land officer on the Pacific coast saying that he believed that certain senators or representatives are concerned in the frauds which have been perpetrated. Applications, he says, have been filed in his own office to the number of fifty by a single man, whose relations to certain politicians are well known. The plan of operations appears to be for large mill-owners or speculators to secure applications from employees, each of whom swears that he applies for land for his own exclusive use and benefit and that he has not contracted to sell the land. His employer then furnishes other testimony required and also the money to pay for the land, which is immediately transferred to him. It is probable that the charges may lead to an investigation and an attempt to so modify the Act of 1878 as to protect the interests of the government.

The Fiji Times, in speaking recently of the value of the cocoanut as food rations, states that a vessel left San Francisco with 400 passengers for Sydney, and, in consequence of running short of stores, put in at Samoa, where a large quantity of cocoanuts were obtained. The weather became so severe that the remainder of the passage consumed eighty days, so that men, women and children were reduced entirely to a cocoanut diet, and were obliged to be contented at last with but one per diem for each adult. "Notwithstanding this diet," says the report, "not a life was lost, and not a single case of sickness occurred, all the passengers landing in a healthy and well-nourished condition."

A woman's brain is of finer quality than that of a man. Fineness of brain gives quickness of perception, and we see that fact illustrated in this: A woman can tell what another life was lost, and not a single case of sickness occurred, all the passengers landing in a healthy and well-nourished condition.

The O. R. & N. Co. captains have had their salaries reduced; the served captains have been put to work as mates and the mates discharged—a fate that befel most of the men under John Holland, the master mechanic.—W. C. S.

Mechanic. —Welcome.
The O. R. & N. Co. captains have had their salaries reduced; the served captains have been put to work as mates and the mates discharged—a fate that befel most of the men under John Holland, the master mechanic.—W. C. S.

Captain Lewis Sponage, of the brig Ubaldeina, of Baltimore, says that he used the great pain-cure, St. Jacobs Oil, for pain in the back, and his steward also for rheumatism in the legs, and both were cured by a few applications.

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