

THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

Four million three hundred and seventy-nine thousand one hundred and ninety-eight letters strayed into the Dead-Letter Office during the last year; 3,346,357 of these were not called for at the postoffices to which they were sent; 78,855 were sent from hotels because the departed guests had left no addresses for forwarding their mails; 175,718 were insufficiently paid; 1,345 contained forbidden articles, lottery tickets, and the like; 280,137 were erroneously or illegally addressed, and 11,979 letters bore no address whatever. Of these letters 15,391 contained money amounting to \$32,647.23. Besides that 18,095 letters contained drafts, checks, money orders, etc., to the amount of \$1,381,994.47. Moreover, 66,137 letters contained postage stamps, and 40,125 contained obligations of all sorts.

With this remarkable showing of more than a \$1,000,000 gone wrong, too much cannot be said in caution to those who confide letters and packages to the mail. The money thus collected at the Dead-Letter Office is turned into the treasury. The goods and merchandise from the packages are sold at auction and the Christmas and fancy cards are done up in packages and sent to the children's hospitals and the orphan asylums.

A whole history of possible anguish and heart burnings is wrapped up in the collection of 35,160 photographs that came to the Dead-Letter Office in a year, and injured and resentful swains, angered relatives and friends may know where some of their treasures have gone to. The photographs are preserved and the portrait gallery of the postoffice department numbers up into the millions, beginning with a miniature that was lost in the mails 50 years ago.

In the house, last Wednesday, the question of appropriating money for improvement of the Mississippi being before the house, Belford, of Colorado, very appropriately said there was a committee on ways and means, composed of brains. There was a committee on appropriations. The committee on appropriations was composed of white-buttoned mandarins. Other committees were slaves, who were compelled to bow their necks and asked the speaker to recognize them. It was a spectacle as sweet as the Hebrews observed when they saw oil running down the beard of Aaron to see the Democratic brethren quarreling over the reference of great subjects. He was in favor of voting not one million, but thirty millions to accomplish advantages for the people. The treasury was to-day governed by New York influence, which held in the vaults hundreds of millions of dollars, kept there, in his judgment, for the sole purpose of advancing the finances of New York and Pennsylvania; but the house to-day was in control of the south and west, and he thanked God for it. The country had submitted to the dominion of two states and a little section not as large as a county in his state long enough. Now southern and western men stand together and say they will unlock the vaults of the national treasury and use the money to improve the water ways of the country, to aid the interests of the people, who will not be longer crushed down by railroad corporations of the republic. Every committee should be given the privilege of reporting at any time. Members should have the right to call up measures when convenient. Two men under the present rules controlled the house—the speaker and the gentleman from Indiana (Holman)—who exercised the veto power by constant objection.

TALKING of the assertion that Henry Villard had transferred his remaining property to the Oregon Transcontinental company, an officer of the Transcontinental says that the statement is utterly devoid of truth and preposterous. The telegraph says he owes the O. R. & N. Co. \$340,000. Said an unprejudiced broker in this connection: "I in the memorandum statement handed by Mr. Villard to the Oregon Transcontinental investigating committee was an item showing that the company owed him \$2,210,000. Mr. Horace White, a week ago, in defending the Oregon Improvement company in a communication to the press, stated that Mr. Villard then held a million dollars of the last issue of its bonds. The two houses belonging to him, with their furniture, represent a million and a half. A million dollars of the Northern Pacific first mortgage bonds, and a quarter million of the second issue were taken by him. He also placed a half million of government bonds in his wife's name. This is a total of six and a half million dollars, not counting a share of stock or what bonds of his other companies he may hold. All this has developed incidentally, one item at a time. But everything enumerated may be, as asserted, pledged to raise money to support the stock market. The street at the time of the decline, however, believed that Mr. Villard had long before sold his stock."

The Oregonian says that a proposition to complete the O. R. & N. Company's road from its present terminus on the eastern slope of the Blue mountains to the junction with the Short Line, has been submitted by the Oregon Construction Company of this city to the management in New York. There are yet ninety-four miles of rails to lay on the Oregon company's end of the road, and the grading is nearly all done. The Short Line is laid to the Fayette river, and about thirty miles will bring it to the junction. The uncompleted portion of this new transcontinental line is therefore only about 124 miles.

The air is filled with rumors concerning changes in the present railroad system of the northwest. One thing is evident: the three companies have dissolved partnership, the Northern Pacific going to the Sound, the O. R. & N. diverting all possible toward Portland and the Columbia, and the O. & T. going—to pieces. The report that there is a movement on foot to set aside the lease of the Oregon and California to the Transcontinental company does not appear to be well founded. Enjoying as it does the advantages of superior situation, any change in the plans of railroad managers must inure to Astoria's benefit.

A topic much discussed in Washington is the shrewdness with which Speaker Carlisle has manoeuvred the committee on the Pacific railroads. He made Mr. Cassiday of Nevada chairman, but at the same time the only important, and, it may be added, money-making work, namely, the land grant, has been handed over to the public lands commission, at the head of which is Mr. Cobb of Indiana. In this way Mr. Carlisle has given the railroad men a good show, and yet taken care that the public shall not suffer.

A NEW ORLEANS jury has brought in a verdict which fairly beats the riddle of the sphinx. Van Benthuyzen brought a criminal libel suit against Staub, and had him arrested. If there was no libel Van Benthuyzen was liable for false imprisonment, and Staub made the claim. Now the jury decides that there was a libel. Both men are declared right, and both wrong, and each pays damages to the other on precisely the same issue. The ablest legal minds of Louisiana give the thing up in despair.

BRITISH journals bring interesting details of the industrial census of India in 1881. The total population of the country is 253,891,821, and of this enormous number only 85,554 persons are British born subjects, and 56,646 are soldiers and 12,088 females. Practically less than 17,000 male civilians, wielding an army of 55,000 men control the vast empire.

ON the State railways in Sweden, says the Engineering, there is generally a doctor for every thirty-two miles of line, and in this way forty-four doctors are employed by the Government. The private railways have a similar system.

BEARS' meat is growing in favor among a class of people who flatter themselves they know what is good to eat. In Chicago and Denver it is often enumerated on the hotel bill of fare, and the demand is usually greater than the supply.

THE government of Canada is making inquiry into the statement that two of its citizens who have deserted from the United States army, were seized upon Canadian soil and taken to a military station in Minnesota.

SERGEANT MASON has signed a contract with the manager of a Chicago museum to pose before admiring crowds as the man who shot at President Garfield's slayer.

IT crime be a criterion Portland is fast becoming a metropolis. Everyday develops a sensation, generally it is a murder, sometimes a defalcation, always some devilry.

RUSSIAN finances are said to be going from bad to worse, and, if a crash is to be avoided, the czar must give his permission for another big loan.

A STEAMER was chartered last week in New York to take 10,000 barrels of petroleum to Italy. This is a new feature in the export trade.

OF cotton seed oil, comparatively unknown ten years ago, over 250,000 barrels, it is estimated, were made during the past season.

THERE are 80,000 more women than men in the state of Massachusetts. This mere statement shows the great necessity for leap year.

GORRINGE has over a thousand men at work in his shipyard, and has on the stocks ten iron vessels of various kinds and capacities.

TEXAS cattle men are hard pushed. Cows worth \$20 to \$23 in good times are selling for \$10.

SEATTLE is out of debt and has \$6,000 in the city treasury.

NEW TO-DAY

J. RISBERG.

Practical Tailor.

On Genevieve street, opposite Biorath & Johns.

OCCIDENTAL HALL

MONDAY AND TUESDAY, JAN. 14 and 15,

THE EMINENT COMEDIAN, John S. LANGRISHE

THE Man in a Maze

In his amusing creation, the "SIMPSONS"

and the "SKEPTICS"

In the funniest combination of Mirth and Laughter ever before the public.

TUESDAY EVENING, ENTIRE CHANGE OF BILL.

"Matrimonial Oddities," and the "Gentleman from Ireland."

Tickets now on sale at New York Variety Store.

The A1 Fast Sailing Schooner

"GEN. BANNING,"

Five tons register, will leave Astoria, on or about

JANUARY 20th, 1884.

FOR Gray's Harbor.

All freight now in Astoria, or that may be shipped by the O. R. & N. Co., care of the steamer "General Miles," for Gray's Harbor, prior to the date of sailing, will go forward without delay. For further information apply to J. H. D. GRAY, Astoria, Oregon.

J. HESS, A. M. JOHNSON.

Astoria Sail Loft.

MANUFACTURERS OF

SAILS, TENTS, AWNINGS,

TARPAULINS,

And everything else pertaining to our Business.

Lowest Price and Best Work

For your Money.

At the Old Stand.

Leave your orders and get your work done at once.

J. HESS & CO., Astoria, Oregon.

G. A. STINSON & CO.,

BLACKSMITHING.

At Capt. Rogers old stand, corner of Cass and Court Streets.

Ship and Cannery work, Horseshoeing, Wagons made and repaired. Good work guaranteed.

FRESH CANDY

AT THE ASTORIA CANDY FACTORY

Patronize Home Manufacture. All my CANDIES are of the FINEST QUALITY. A full assortment

NUTS, FOREIGN FRUITS, ETC.

JOHN P. CLASSEN.

PLUMBING,

Gas and Steam Fitting

DONE BY RUDDOCK & WHEELER, AT fair rates. Also a complete stock of goods in our line. Estimates given and work guaranteed.

Cass street, in rear of 100 F building, next to Gas Co's office.

ASTORIA LIQUOR STORE,

AUG. DANIELSON, Proprietor.

Rebuilt and Refitted Throughout.

The Best of WINES, LIQUORS, AND CIGARS

For a Good Cigar, call for one of "Danielson's Best."

Corner West 9th and Water Streets, Astoria, 100-101

NOTICE TO PILOTS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL whom it may concern that there will be a meeting of the Washington Territory Board of Pilot Commissioners for Columbia River and Est, held at Bwaco, W. T., on the 15th day of January, A. D. 1884, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Done by order of the Board. C. A. REED, Secretary. 100-101

December 25th, 1883.

Stockholders' Meeting.

THERE WILL BE A STOCKHOLDERS' meeting of the Point Adams Packing Co. at their office, at Upper Astoria, on Thursday, January 17th, at 10 o'clock, A. M. By order of the Board of Directors. W. T. CHUTE, Secretary.

Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of the British America Packing Company will be held at the residence of G. Holmes, in Upper Astoria, January 18th, 1884.

By order of the board of directors. B. YOUNG, President.

Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of the British America Packing Company, Siceous, will be held at the residence of G. Holmes, in Upper Astoria, January 20th, 1884.

By order of the board of directors. GUST HOLMES, President.

Notice of Purchase.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE THAT THE late firm of Wah Lee & Co. is this day dissolved by mutual consent, the undersigned having bought the interest of Lang Ah Him. The business was the keeping of a store and the garden See Shing. All bills due said firm must be handed in by Tuesday, the 15th inst. A. H. HON. Secretary.

Astoria, Or., Jan. 10th, 1884. 100-101

FURNISHED ROOMS TO LET.

AT MRS. GEO. HILLER'S, NEXT DOOR to Weston Hotel.

You Are Sure to be Suited AT THE Leading Furniture House OF ASTORIA. CHAS. HEILBORN.



FOR THE Hall, Office, Library, Parlor, Chamber and DINING ROOM. in WALNUT, CHERRY, ASH, AND MAPLE. We are without a doubt showing the Largest and Most Complete line of CHAMBER SUITS in this city, unequalled in Design, Workmanship and Finish. CARPETS. We Carry an IMMENSE STOCK OF CARPETS of All Designs and Colors in Body, Roxbury, and Tapestry Brussels, Three Plys, Extra Supers and Ingrains.

ARE not excelled by any north of San Francisco. Nothing but the best dispensed, and every convenience for the comfort of guests.

THE Billiard Parlors and Club Rooms

Imported Wines, Liquors and Cigars. The Most Complete Establishment in Astoria. AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE O. R. & N. DOCK.

SAINT MARY'S HOSPITAL, ASTORIA, OREGON. THIS INSTITUTION, UNDER CARE OF the Sisters of Charity, is now ready for the reception of patients. Private rooms for the accommodation of any desiring them. Patients admitted at all hours, day or night. No physician has exclusive right, every patient is free to and has the privilege of employing any physician they prefer.

United States Marine Seamen who pay Hospital Dues, are entitled to Free care and attendance at this Hospital during sickness. Permits must be obtained for United States Marines at the Custom House. SISTERS OF CHARITY.

PIANOS AND ORGANS. SMALL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF ALL KINDS. FINEST VIOLIN STRINGS, Sheet Music, Piano, and Organ Instructors. CELEBRATED STECK & KNABE PIANOS! USED BY President of United States "Governor of Oregon," Astoria Musical Society, Mrs. J. W. Conn, of Astoria.

And other prominent persons. Pianos and Organs of many leading makes, wholesale and retail, including CELEBRATED TABER ORGANS. AND WONDERFUL LITTLE GIANT STECK PIANO Largest House on This Coast. GARDNER Bros., 165 First St., Portland, Oregon.

Ready for Business. The Portland and Astoria STEVEDORE COMPANY Is prepared to contract with masters and consignees of vessels for the Loading and Unloading of Vessels AT EITHER PORT. Promptness and satisfaction guaranteed in all cases.

Executors' Notice. THE COUNTY COURT OF CLATSOP County, Oregon, having appointed the undersigned executors of the last will and testament of Truman P. Powers, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are requested to present the same with the proper vouchers, at the office of G. Leinenweber, Upper Astoria, within six months from this date. G. LEINENWEBER, Wm. WADLIANS, Executors. Astoria, December 14, 1883.

FRANK L. PARKER. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables FANCY GROCERIES.



STEAMER CLARA PARKER Eben P. Parker, Master. For TOWING, FREIGHT or CHARTER apply to the Captain, or to H. B. PARKER.

EMPIRE STORE RE-OPENING! Fine Goods AT Reduced Prices Ladies desirous of procuring Goods unequalled in Style and Finish will take pleasure in examining our Stock of SILKS, SATINS and DRESS GOODS.

IN THE GENTS' FURNISHING DEPARTMENT, Everything is Complete and of the best. PRAEL BROS. John A. Montgomery, (SUCCESSOR TO JACKINS & MONTGOMERY.) DEALER IN Tin, Sheet Iron and Copper Ware. A General Assortment of HOUSEHOLD GOODS. Agents for Magee Stoves and Ranges. The Best in the market. Pumping goods of all kinds on hand. Job work done in a workmanlike manner. PLUMBING, GAS FITTING, AND CANNERY WORK Attended to Promptly on Reasonable Terms. CHEWASUS STREET, Next to C. L. Parker's Store. ASTORIA, OREGON.



THE NEW MODEL RANGE CAN BE HAD IN ASTORIA ONLY OF E. R. HAWES, AGENT CALL AND EXAMINE IT, YOU WILL BE PLEASSED. E. R. HAWES is also agent for the Buck patent Cooking Stove And other first-class stoves. Furnace Work, Steam Fittings, etc., a specialty. A FULL STOCK ALWAYS ON HAND. E. R. HAWES, Two doors east of Occident Hotel, ASTORIA, OREGON.



M. OLSEN, J. GUSTAFSON, A. JOHNSON. MARTIN OLSEN & CO. DEALERS IN FURNITURE AND BEDDING. Corner Main and Squemoqua Streets, Astoria, Oregon. WINDOW SHADES AND TRIMMINGS; WALL PAPER ETC. A Complete Stock. PRICES AS CHEAP AS QUALITY WILL AFFORD. ALL KINDS OF FURNITURE REPAIRED AND VARNISHED.

YOU CAN TAKE THE CAKE! And by Buying it at F. B. ELBERSON'S SEASIDE BAKERY You will be sure that it is worth taking. Every Variety of Special Inducements For the Holiday Trade. Candies, Christmas Tree Trimmings, Etc. The Best Quality of Fine Bread Delivered every Morning SEASIDE BAKERY, F. B. ELBERSON, Proprietor.

California Exchange The best of California and Foreign Wines and Liquors Kept Constantly on Hand Domestic and Foreign Cigars of the best Brands. NATIONAL BREWERY BEER. On Concomly between Benton and Lafayette streets. GEORGE GOBLIER FOR TILLAMOOK. (Weather permitting.) The new Steamer A. B. FIELD. N. P. JOHANSEN, Master Will leave for TILLAMOOK, on FOR SAILING DATES AND PARTICULARS apply to J. G. HUSTLER, Main Street Wharf, Astoria; ALLEN & LEWIS, Portland; J. L. STORY Tillamook.

Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure is sold by us on guarantee. It cures consumption, Sold by W. E. De-ment.