TODAY'S WEATHER.

For Western Washington and Western Oregon, showers; southerly gales on the coast.

The Daily Morning Astorian.

The ASTORIAN has the largest LOCAL circulation, the largest GENERAL circulation and largest TOTAL circulation of all papers published in Astoria.

TELEGRAPHIC PRESS REPORT.

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THE PRICE OF MEAT

The Sudden Rise Due to Scarcity of Cattle.

THE GREAT CATTLE RANGES

Where Once Thousands Roamed Not a Single Horn is Left—Other Telegraphic News.

Associated Press.

Washington, April 17.—Officials at the department of agriculture are pursuing their investigation in the recent big rise on the price of beef and it is more than likely they will have something definite to say within the next week with reference to the cause of the matter and probable outcome. The action of the department in raising the embargo on Mexican cattle is expected to have the effect of keeping the price of beef from going up higher even if it does not cause a decline. Dr. Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry, said today there was undoubtedly a scarcity of cattle in the West, sufficient to account in part for the increased price of dressed meats.

"The only question," said he, "is whether this scarcity is sufficient to account for it altogether, or whether a few big men who control the beef market have not to a certain extent at least anticipated the effect of this scarcity; in other words, whether the effect has not come before the cause. What we are anxious to know is whether the price of cattle has gone up in proportion to the price of beef.

"For some time past cattle have been getting scarcer and scarcer, in the West, and particularly in the Southwest. The condition of grass has been so poor, that cattle have well-nigh disappeared entirely. In Southwestern Texas, for example, where there used to be tremendous herds, there are practically none today. There has been a great improvement in grass this year, in Texas, and other western states, but cattle are not there to take advantage of it."

POOR ARMENIA.

She Will Make a Bold Stand For Freedom.

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London, April 17.—A correspondent of the Associated Press writing from Armenia under date of March 17th, says:

"I have traveled many hundreds of miles in Russia and Persia and have visited Armenian colonies as far east as the Caspians, and as far south as the city of Teheran, and have learned after most careful investigation that the Armenian question will soon reach an acute and painful crisis. In fact, Armenia is preparing for war. The revolutionary party has now both guns and money.

"The central idea of the plan of campaign is the general uprising of Armenians throughout the Turkish empire some time during the month of May. The leaders have promised the people in the eastern part of Armenia that the chief attack will be made in the city of Constantinople itself, and the brunt of the fighting will be done by the Armenians therein. The Armenians have at least 4,000 Martin-Henry rifles hidden in secret places in the mountains.

"For a handful of untrained Armenians to deliberately begin fighting with the 300,000 regular troops of the Turkish empire would seem to be folly too colossal for human conception; yet the purpose is not to bring Turkey to terms by a fair fight, but to settle the quarrel by intervention of the European powers. Before the revolution is three months old the powers, it is believed, would be compelled to take a hand in the conflict, for the cruelty, atrocity, the outrage, the lust and butchery of the struggle will be so unthinkably horrible that Christian humanity will interfere. Armenia, it is then hoped, may get her freedom."

AN UPTURNED SCHOONER.

Supposed to Be the Behring Sea, of Tacoma.

Port Townsend, April 17.—News reached here today from Neah Bay that two Indian sealing vessels arrived there and reported sighting 25 miles west of Cape Flattery the up-turned keel of an unknown vessel of about 50 tons burden.

The derelict is supposed to be the schooner Bering Sea, of Tacoma, owned by John Strand and E. E. Johnson. The vessel was on her way to the halibut banks.

WASHINGTON'S LUMBER OUTPUT

Tacoma, April 17.—The West Coast Lumberman of this city, recently asked all lumber and shingle mills of the state to report their cut for April 1, if it was an average day's work. The reports were received from a fair proportion, and basing the estimate on these, it was found that the Washington Mills have an ordinary daily capacity of 7,500,000 feet of lumber, 15,000,000 shingles, and 1,500,000 lath.

A BLOODY BATTLE.

A Fight Between the Governor's Forces and the Insurrectionists.

St. Louis, April 17.—A special to the Republic from Guthrie, O. T., says: "Couriers arrived here from Tishomingo, the capital of the Chickasaw nation, and report that a battle is raging between Governor Mosely's forces and 200 insurrectionists. Six people have been killed and 8 wounded so the report says, and great excitement prevails. The cause of the trouble is due to bad political blood which has long pervaded in the Chickasaw seat of government, and which existed since the last session of the legislature. Willis Brown, Charles Grown, and Noah McGill, who claimed to have been elected sheriffs of the nation, allege that the legislature acted illegally when it rejected their claims to such offices.

On Tuesday morning Governor Mosely issued orders to all sheriffs, constables and deputies throughout the nation to report to him at once for arms. When the officers gathered around the house, 200 enraged men, headed by McGill and the Brown Bros., rushed from the adjoining house and a deadly riot followed. Governor Mosely and his official retinue escaped by rushing to houses on the outskirts of the town. Another carnage is looked for at any moment.

SAN FRANCISCO RACES.

A Howling Mob Surrounded the Judges Stand.

San Francisco, April 17.—The day's sport almost ended in a riot when the judges placed Bellicose first and Quirt second. Quirt was heavily played for favorite, and in the eyes of all except the judges, won the race by a neck. When the numbers were hung up a mob surrounded the judges' stand and howled until driven away by the police.

Seven Furlongs—Nephew, 1:29.

One mile—Adelante, 1:44 1-2.

Four and one-half furlongs, 2-year-olds—Martonette, 0:56 1-2.

One mile and one-sixteenth, handicap—Thornhill, 1:47 3-4.

Five and one-half furlongs—Howard, 1:08 3-4.

Six furlongs—Bellicose, 1:14 3-4.

MARINE HAPPENINGS.

San Francisco, April 17.—Arrived—Umatilla, from Victoria and Port Townsend; bark Germania, from Seattle; schooner Amethyst, from Coquille river; ship Spartan, from Seattle; schooner J. M. Coleman, from Willapa harbor; barkentine C. C. Fun, from New Westminster; schooner Helen N. Kimball, from Tacoma; schooner Azalea, from Gray's Harbor.

Cleared—Costa Rica, for Nanaimo; ship Falls of Halladale, for Bristol; schooner Pioneer, from Naknek.

Departed—Schooner Chas. Hansen, for Gray's Harbor.

Freights and charters—American bark Gen. Fairchild, coal from Nanaimo to San Francisco; British ship Lonsdale, now at Blakeley, lumber thence to Valparaiso, F. O. Pisagua range; American bark Sea King, coal from Departure Bay to San Francisco. American schooner W. S. Phelps, salmon from Nushagak, Alaska, to San Francisco.

NEW WHISKY DIRECTORS.

Peoria, Ill., April 17.—Following were today elected directors of the Distilling and Cattle Feeding Company for one year: T. H. Wentworth, S. M. Rice and Walter Scheffel, of New York; J. M. Hutton, of Cincinnati; and John Mott, Floyd Jennison and William J. Mayer, of Chicago. During the proceedings notices of action for libel were served by J. B. Greenhut upon members of the reorganization committee and their attorneys. Suits were for $50,000 damages each. General McNult, receiver, was named as one of the defendants in the libel suits.

CHICAGO WHEAT MARKET.

Chicago, April 17.—The wheat market became suddenly excited during the last fifteen minutes on 'change on a cash bid which developed here and at New York. May sold at 57 1-4, against 56 1-2 last night. The following were given as reasons for the spurt: Sales of a round number of cargoes of from 25 to 50, in addition to the above for country dealers and sales reported from New York, 34 boat loads including 12 at other ports, with selling to millers at 1-4 cent over May. The big feature of the situation was the claim that outside of Chicago there is practically no available wheat for export or for interior domestic millers.

HAS BEEN RETIRED.

Washington, April 17.—Lieut. Ransom, of Portland, who was recently appointed to a lieutenancy in the army under a special act of congress, has been placed on the retired list.

AMERICAN APPOINTED

R. H. McLean Will Command Hawaii's Army.

THE JAPAN-CHINA AGREEMENT

It Will Benefit All Nations Having Commerce With China—The Nicaraguan Affair.

Associated Press.

Washington, April 17.—R. H. McLean, an ex-naval officer, has been appointed to command the army of Hawaii, with rank, pay and allowances of colonel in the United States army. He graduated from the United States naval academy in 1872 and honorably resigned in 1888 after an excellent record to go into business.

DEEPER AND DEEPER.

The Income Tax Is Causing Officials No End of Trouble.

Washington, April 17.—The internal revenue officials positively decline to make public any statement in regard to the income tax returns, or to answer any question relating thereto. It is learned the reason of this reticence is a great number of blunders were made by collectors in their telegraphic reports yesterday. Who is blameable for this state of things is not stated, but the result is that from what has been received no intelligent statement can be given of the number or amount of returns filed with the collectors. It is undoubtedly true, that a large number of persons subject to law have made no returns at all, and in consequence the officials see ahead of them a vast amount of litigation and trouble.

WILL GO TO WASHINGTON.

Nashville, April 17.—In an interview to be published in the "American" tomorrow, Associate Justice Howell E. Jackson, of the supreme court, says:

"I wrote a few days since to Chief Justice Fuller simply expressing my willingness to go to Washington and make a full bench in case the court should desire a re-hearing of the income tax case at this term of court. I have heard nothing since then. The court usually adjourns between the 15th and the 25th of May, and if a re-hearing is ordered, say early in May, I shall go back and make a full bench."

Judge Jackson is improving and growing strong daily, and expects to go to Washington when court meets in October.

SAN FRANCISCO MURDER CASE.

San Francisco, April 17.—Interest in the Emanuel Church murders is still intense, and the progress of the coroner's inquest is closely watched for exciting developments. The strong sentiment against Durant seems to be undergoing a reaction, and the number of people who assert belief in his innocence is on the increase. Durant does not act like a guilty man. His demeanor is more that of a man who is perfectly confident his innocence of the awful crimes will be certainly proved when the proper time comes. If he is a ravisher and murderer he is certainly possessed of wonderful nerve.

CHINA-JAPAN AGREEMENT.

Washington, April 17.—It is believed here that the Japanese have secured the abolition of the likin tax, by which is meant the tax imposed on goods transported from one point in China to another.

This has been the object of all the Occidental diplomats accredited to China for months, and the officers of the state department feel that all civilized nations will owe a debt of gratitude to Japan for thus removing this burden on their commerce with China.

SELECTED MISS GOULD.

Memphis, April 17.—A favorable reply has been received from Miss Helen Gould to the invitation extended her to act as sponsor for the veteran Chickasaw guards during the interstate drill in May. Miss Gould will be accompanied by Mrs. Munn and two maids of honor to be selected by her. The selection of Miss Gould was in recognition of the aid given this city by her father during the yellow fever epidemic.

HARRY WELLER ARRESTED.

He Is Held in Portland for Procuring Girls for Lives of Shame.

Portland, April 17.—Harry Weller, who assisted a notorious procuress of Astoria to seduce four girls from San Francisco under promise of securing employment for them in Astoria, is a prisoner here. Weller went to San Francisco with the woman for the purpose of securing the girls to order lives of shame. Soon after leaving San Francisco, two of the girls, Katie Lewis and Alice Crawford, realized their situation and placed themselves under the care of Captain Bolles, of the Columbia. When they reached Astoria the girls refused to leave the steamer, and came to Portland. The other two girls stopped at Astoria. Weller came on to Portland and tried to induce the girls to return, but he was arrested. There was no charge against him here, but on being searched, a revolver was found on him and he was charged with carrying concealed weapons and pending trial tomorrow word is expected from Chief Loughery of Astoria, to hold him on another charge. Chief Crowley, of San Francisco, telegraphed Chief Minto today that the girls' parents are poor, and the girls started out to find work.

FOR SOUND MONEY.

Washington, April 17.—Representative Josiah Patterson, of Memphis, is in Washington, in the interest of sound money convention to be held in Memphis May 23d. The president will be invited to attend the Memphis convention, but no assurance has been given as to his acceptance or whether he will write a letter, similar to his recent one. Secretary Carlisle, however, will attend the convention and deliver the principal address.

REDUCED RATES SECURED.

Portland, April 17.—Secretary Wells, of the Young's Men's State Republican Club, has secured reduced rates on railroads for all delegates and visitors to the annual convention which meets in this city May 23d. The rate on the Southern Pacific for the round trip will be one and one-third fares and on the O. R. and N. one and one-fifth. It is expected that over 600 delegates will be present.

THE NICARAGUA AFFAIR.

Washington April 17.—So far as the state department knows Great Britain has not rejected Nicaragua's proposition made in answer to the British ultimatum, to submit the claims for indemnity to arbitration. It is still believed that Great Britain will not act hastily in the matter, and at the state department there is an impression that no serious trouble would ensue.

FOR A MONUMENT.

Pittsburg, April 17.—The Commercial Gazette will announce that Andrew Carnegie has donated $100,000 to build a monument to Mrs. Mary E. Schenley, of London, England. The monument is to be erected under the triumphal arch at the entrance to the park of 460 acres which Mrs. Schenley presented to the city and which bears her name.

ANOTHER RUMOR.

London, April 17.—The Times will publish tomorrow a dispatch from Kobe saying the Japanese refuse to disclose the terms on which peace has been arranged with China until the treaty is ratified, which must be within three weeks. The armistice, therefore, is extended to May 8th.

EUROPEAN POWERS KICK.

London, April 17.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Berlin says: The National Zeitung declares that all nations interested in commerce in China must lose no time in protecting their interests against a treaty which will completely paralyze European competition against Japan.

FOUGHT OVER OSCAR.

Paris, April 17.—A duel with swords was fought today between two well known writers, Jules Huret and Catuele Mender, arising from the fact that the former connected the latter's name with that of Oscar Wilde. Mender was slightly wounded.

BICYCLIST SUSPENDED.

Philadelphia, April 17.—John S. Johnson, of the Stearns bicycle team, has been suspended from the League of American Wheelmen, presumably for professionalism.