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The Best, Absolutely Pure Rye

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For Sale at The Occident Hotel Bar, The Office Saloon, And all the leading bars in Astoria.

SHERWOOD & SHERWOOD PACIFIC COAST AGENTS.

DETAILS OF THE FIRE IN SPOKANE

Eight Lives Lost and Many Narrow Escapes From Death.

HEROIC EFFORT OF FIREMEN

One Old Lady, After Going Hand Under Hand Down a Ladder, Finally Drops and is Killed—Fire Still Burning.

Spokane, Jan. 25.—Eight lives and probably nine, were lost in last night's fire in the Great Eastern block. They are: Miss Alice Wilson, aged 18, employed as hat trimmer.

Maude Wilson, sister to Alice, aged 5. Mrs. Rose Smith, aged 25. Mrs. H. G. Davison, an elderly lady from Nebraska City, Neb., who fell in descending from the fifth story, died at the hospital this morning.

W. H. Gordon, mining engineer and expert. Mrs. Cora Peters and her daughters, Ethel and Alma, aged respectively 9 and 5. It is also thought that her son, Charles, aged 12, perished, but there are reports that he was saved and taken into the country by relatives.

Mrs. Davison was living with her daughter, Mrs. J. T. Pronger. They had rooms on the fifth floor and found themselves cut off from the stairway and fire escapes. The firemen failed in their efforts to lift the ladders to the fifth story, owing to a tangle of the electric light and telephone wires. Mr. Pronger discovered two large fires burning on the outer wall of the building. He climbed down those to the fourth story and managed to catch the top of the swaying ladder in the net-work of wires. He descended to the ground and was followed back up the ladder by a fireman carrying a light ladder on his shoulder. This was connected with the main ladder. Mrs. Pronger caught and made fast to the end, and she then descended in safety. Meanwhile Mrs. Davison tried to follow Pronger, but in the dense smoke missed the ladder. She came on down hand under hand until she reached the second story. She lost her hold and fell to the one pavement. She was 72 years of age. One son, Samuel T. Davison, a merchant at Nebraska City; another, Rev. F. G. Davison, is pastor of the First Baptist church at Ottumwa, Iowa. None of the remains of those lost have been recovered. The four walls of the big building remain intact and fire is still burning in the basement. In that appalling mass of blackened debris lie the bodies of the victims.

The local board of insurance assessors estimate the total property loss at \$23,947; insurance, \$121,000.

The report that G. B. Albert, the violinist and brother of the famous pianist, is missing, proves unfounded. He was not in the building at the time and has been located.

SIR MICHAEL.

His Speech Still Stirrs the Patriotic Irish. Public.

New York, Jan. 25.—According to the World's correspondent the speech of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, declaring that Great Britain will demand free commerce for the world in Chinese ports, continues to be the sensational feature of all discussion of the complications in China. George W. Smalley's Times dispatch today quoted editorialists from New York papers praising England's attitude as exemplified in Beach's speech is prominently reproduced by the evening papers as evidence that England in keeping open the Chinese markets will find an ally not only in Japan, but in the United States. The Times this morning publishes an official inspired editorial minimizing the gravity of the chancellor's words, "whose strong expression" it complains, "have been strangely misinterpreted."

The Times continued: "It may be imagined that the chancellor of the exchequer delivered something like an ultimatum with regard to the proposed loan. In reality he did nothing of the kind. He merely said that England would never allow her commerce to be excluded from the Chinese markets. Our attitude is in no sense aggressive, but merely self-defensive."

This remarkable attempt to explain away the chancellor's bellicose declaration is made to placate Russia.

ATTEMPTED HOLD-UP.

Judge Madill Engages the Robber in Conversation Until Arrested.

St. Louis, January 25.—About noon today a thin, well dressed young man walked into the private office of Judge Madill, president of the Union Trust Company, and pointing a revolver at the gray-haired financier's head, demanded \$500 in cash, threatening to kill him if the money was not paid. Judge Madill's coolness saved him. He engaged the man in conversation until detectives arrived and handcuffed him. The would-be robber, whose name is unknown, was taken to the Four Courts and locked up. When searched a small bottle of nitro-glycerine was found in his pocket. He would not reveal his identity.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

New York, Jan. 25.—Advices from the Herald's correspondent in Colon state that memorial services were held there yesterday in Christ church and the Wesleyan ministry for United States Consul William M. Ashby, Dr. Hateman, the German consul, and D. G. Motte, master mechanic of the Panama railroad, who were drowned while out boating a week ago. There seems now to be no hope of recovering their bodies.

THE PIONEERS OF CALIFORNIA

Celebrate Discovery of Gold in 1848 by Banquet in Boston.

STORY OF THE FIRST NUGGET

Marshall Tried to Keep It Secret, But the News Spread Like Wild Fire—Region Swarmed With Prospectors.

Boston, Jan. 25.—The society of California Pioneers of New England met at the United States hotel last night, between 100 and 150 being present. Two hours were passed pleasantly in the renewal of old ties of friendship. Charles A. Dole, the president of the society, presided, and was among the speakers of the occasion. Among the others who spoke were John Connes of Mattapan, who was United States senator from California in Lincoln's time; Gorman Hillman, Hawaiian consul in Boston, and Judge Henry Wells, of Bainbridge.

Among those present at the reunion was Mrs. Mary Davis of Hoxbury district, who saw and had in her hands the first nugget of gold discovered in California by Marshall at Sutter mill, January 24, 1848. Mrs. Davis related the story of the nugget. When Marshall discovered the gold in the sluiceway of the sawmill at Coloma, he took the nugget and started for Fort Sutter, 20 miles away. His road took him past the ranch of the Binclairs' and there he exhibited the new found treasure. Marshall proceeded on his way to Fort Sutter, where the nuggets were tested and proved to be gold.

On his way back Marshall again stopped at the ranch and telling them that the nuggets had been tested and found to be gold, pledged them to secrecy in the discovery.

Mrs. Binclair told how impossible it was to keep the discovery quiet and how in a few months the region round about was swarming with eager, desperate men.

KLONDIKE MAILS.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Postmaster-General Gary has issued an advertisement inviting proposals for carrying the mails in safe and suitable steamships during the season of navigation of 1898 on route No. 75,097 from San Francisco or Seattle, or any other seaport postoffice in California, Oregon or Washington in connection with Unalaska, Alaska, St. Michaels and points along the Yukon river to Circle City, Alaska, or to Dawson City, Canada. If steamers run to that point and back the contractor will not be required to carry more than 200 pounds of mail each way per trip. Proposals will be received until February 23.

THE PELICAN LOST.

San Francisco, Jan. 25.—The steamship Pelican, now out 103 days from Port Townsend for Taku, Japan, has been given up as lost. She was never spoken after she passed Cape Flattery and no message has come from any one of her company. The local branch of the United States hydrographic office received reports November 4 of several large logs floating in the path of vessels bound for Puget Sound to the Orient. It is the opinion of local shipmasters that the Pelican struck one of these logs at night and sank before her boats could be manned.

OUR PRECIOUS METALS.

San Francisco, Jan. 25.—Following is the annual report of Wells-Fargo & Co. of the precious metals produced in the states and territories west of the Missouri river (including British Columbia) during 1897, which shows in the aggregate:

Table with 2 columns: Metal and Amount. Gold: 4,680,367; Silver: 37,184,004; Copper: 35,645,694; Lead: 9,775,144; Total: 833,435,489.

The production of gold in Oregon during the year 1897 is placed at \$2,491,797.

CIVIL SERVICE.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 25.—United States Judge Lorton has decided the injunction case of W. C. Morgan vs. D. A. Nunn, revenue collector, involving the question of Nunn's power under the civil service law holding, the court had no jurisdiction and that the chief executive alone has power to enforce civil service rules and laws. Of the case on trial Judge Lorton says:

"That the authoritative orders of the chief executive have been or are about to be most flagrantly violated by the defendant, are not denied."

SEASIDE REPUBLICANS.

Seaside, Jan. 25.—(Special to the Astorian.)—At a meeting held on Monday evening, January 25, by the Seaside republican club, the following officers were elected: C. A. McGuire, president; D. N. Hubbard, vice-president; C. T. Hubbard, treasurer; J. E. Brallier, secretary.

J. H. Johannsen, Jerome Dalton and J. E. Brallier were elected delegates to the league convention to be held at Portland on the 1st of February.

ITALY AND ENGLAND.

Rome, Jan. 25.—The Italian armed cruiser Marecupo will sail for the far east on Wednesday. King Humbert granted an audience to the captain of the vessel today with the view of expressing his wishes and defining the policy of Italy in the far east. His majesty intimated that Italy's interest lay in the direction of trade expansion and was therefore akin to England's.

CLEVELAND ON HAWAII

Says His Position Has Been Misrepresented and Misunderstood.

IS OPPOSED TO ANNEXATION

And Always Was Against the Proposition—Interference Disgraceful—Also Opposed to Recognition of Cuban Belligerency.

Princeton, N. J., Jan. 25.—"It is one of the strangest things of these strange times that my position on the Hawaiian question should be misunderstood."

This is the way ex-President Cleveland expressed himself when shown the statement of Senator Morgan relative to his position in the senate today. In order that there could be no misunderstanding of his position on the question, he authorized the following statement:

"I do not believe in discussing matters of this kind as a private citizen. I do not care, however, to be misrepresented. I will, therefore, say that ever since the question of Hawaiian annexation was presented I have been utterly and constantly opposed to it. The first thing I did after my inauguration in March, 1895, was to recall from the federal senate an annexation treaty then pending before that body. I regard, and will regard the proposed annexation of these islands as not only opposed to our national policy, but as a perversion of our national mission. The mission of our nation is to build up and make a greater country of what we already have instead of making extensions. I did not suppose there was any one in public who misunderstood my position in this matter. It has been said that I was partial to the former monarchy and desired to see it restored in order that I might treat with it for the purpose of annexation. How could I have had such an idea, if I regarded annexation as contrary to our national policy? The same answer can be made to the statement that my opposition to Hawaiian annexation was based merely upon dissatisfaction with the treaty pending before the senate at the time of my second inauguration. I was opposed to annexation as such."

"In regard to the Hawaiian monarchy, aside from any question of annexation, and without harboring any previous desires or restoring the monarchy, I investigated the relations of our representative to the overthrow. This investigation convinced me that our interference in the revolution of 1893 was disgraceful. I would gladly, therefore, for the sake of our national honor and our country's fair name, have repaired that wrong."

"In regard to the Cuban question, my position was fully made known to Congress in the various messages in which the subject was discussed. I was opposed to the recognition of the belligerency of the island, and my position was perfectly well known. Indeed, so very unmistakable were my views on the subject, that I was time and again threatened by frenzied men and women with dire calamity to be visited upon myself and children because of what they saw fit to assert as my enmity to the Cuban cause."

"My position on all these questions was made very clear in the official documents at the time and there can be no possible mistake. It is very difficult for me to understand Senator Morgan's evident wrong impression in regard to my position. It is one of the strangest things of these strange times that my position in these matters should be brought into question."

AN OLD SCOUT.

Going North to Seek Fortune in the Klondike With Game.

Portland, Or., Jan. 25.—William Frazier, for many years government scout and guide in Yellowstone Park, is in Portland. He is on his way to the Alaskan gold fields and will remain in Portland pending the arrival of William Northrup, a nephew of the late Jay Gould, and a prominent capitalist of New York.

Frazier brought to Portland with him a carload of horses which he will utilize as a pack train.

RESIGNED TO HIS FATE.

Rev. C. O. Brown Accepts the Decision Against Him.

Oakland, Cal., Jan. 25.—Rev. C. O. Brown will not run away from the consequences of his confession. He said today that he would stay here until his friends had time to decide whether or not they would receive or cut him.

"I do not know what the future will bring to me," said Dr. Brown, "but I do know this, that I shall preach the gospel till I die, if I have to preach it on the street corners. I shall stay here until I know what my former friends will do, and I am ready to bear anything that my confession calls for."

SPAIN CONSENTS.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Minister Woodford has called to the department of state that the government of Spain has consented to negotiate a commercial treaty with the United States on the basis of reciprocity with schedules for Cuba and the peninsula. The negotiations will be conducted in Washington at a time yet to be agreed upon.

MURDERER SUICIDES.

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 25.—Bishop, who assassinated General Bittencourt, the minister of war, last November, at the time of the attempt on the life of President Moraes, has committed suicide in prison.

THE RISE AND FALL OF WHEAT

That Cereal Again Reaches the Dollar Mark.

A CLEVER TRICK OF LETTER

Set the Fit in Commotion in Order to Advance the Price of May—Prices Dropped Back to 97 Cents.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—The opening in wheat was weak. May, which closed yesterday at 97 1/2, started today at 97 1/2 and 3/4, and comparatively little trading was done even at those prices. The weakness was due both to foreign and domestic news.

About 45 minutes after the opening the pit was set in a commotion, January being the center of interest. That delivery was nominally worth 95 cents at yesterday's close and was offered at 94 1/2 at today's opening. About 10:45 brokers for Letter began bidding for January and the price was advanced so far that for a few minutes it appeared to be fairly running away. From 95 cents it jumped 1/2 and 1 cent at a time, the brokers raising their bids that much until it was bid. Then the reaction came, the price dropping almost as quickly as it advanced and brought up at 97 cents, and for the rest of the session was comparatively quiet. The gyrations of January were generally believed to be due to a clever move on the part of the Letter crowd, who, it is thought, have taken this method to advance the price of May.

WHICH WILL IT BE?

Three Counts of the Vote for Sultan and No "Cliché" Developed.

A royal battle of ballots is this—the contest for the royal robes of the great Sultan. So far Mr. James Hare seems to be the favorite, but he is not as yet elected—there are too many precincts to be heard from. There is not one of the seven candidates but would grace the Sultan's throne and wear the ermine with that dignity becoming a "monarch of all he surveys." And it is no small honor which is to be conferred upon the fortunate candidate. The elaborate spectacular performance now under preparation—and participated in by seventy of Astoria's most popular young ladies and gentlemen—is supposed to be enacted in the amusement hall of the palace, and for the amusement of his majesty, the great Sultan. From his seat of honor he will gaze upon fair Greek goddesses in the stately, fascinating, undulating Greek dance, Turkish princesses, Oriental brunette beauties in gorgeous Turkish costumes, will contribute their talents, lending a charm to the hour none could but, before him, likewise, Persian girls will make merry in a manner calculated to gladden the heart of His Highness; court comedians will brighten the hour with their apt speculations upon topics local and foreign; behind his majesty will loom the Royal Zulu bodyguard, who from time to time will be put through their comical drill; and the prime minister to his excellency, the great Sultan, will be in charge of all these festivities, seeing that naught occurs to mar the pleasure of the hour, endeavoring to realize for the monarch all his wildest dreams of youth, beauty and Oriental gavottes. With such dreamy and hypnotic environments who wouldn't be the great Sultan?

Five votes for Sultan are allowed with each seat reserved for either Friday or Saturday evening. The polls will close Thursday at 7 p. m. This whole enterprise is under the auspices and for the benefit of the public library—lend your support.

NEW FOSSIL.

San Jose, Cal., Jan. 25.—The fossil remains of a mammoth animal have been found in the San Felipe valley at the foot of a cliff. A section of the neck was brought to this city yesterday and pronounced by a member of the faculty of the normal school to be the petrified remains of an extinct mammal of enormous size. The portion of the head is intact, showing a long tusk, several teeth and the jawbone.

SPAIN AND THE TREATY.

Madrid, Jan. 25.—The cabinet will meet on Wednesday to discuss the proposed commercial treaty between the United States and Cuba. United States Minister Woodford asserts that the American cruiser Hatria is proceeding to Lisbon merely to relieve the American vessel now there.

YELLOW FEVER.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Surgeon-General Wyman has received a dispatch dated the 20th instant from Dr. Stewart, at Memphis, stating that the secretary of the Mississippi state board of health has reported one and possibly three cases of yellow fever near Edwards, Miss.

SHIP ASHORE.

Amsterdam, Jan. 25.—The German ship Elise, from Savannah, for Rotterdam, before reported ashore at Maeswatek, Holland, is submerged at high water and is considered a total wreck. Her cargo is being washed up along the shore.

THE MAINE'S VISIT.

Madrid, Jan. 25.—The newspapers generally comment upon Secretary Long's explanation of the United States battleship Maine's visit to Havana, and express the opinion that her visit is "inopportune and calculated to encourage the insurgents."

GOOD NATURE IN THE HOUSE

Five Minute Rule Brings Out Some Spirited Discussions.

INDIAN BILL THE TEXT

Hard Knocks Given and Received, But No Acrimony Exhibited—Prosperity or No Prosperity?

Washington, Jan. 25.—Under the parliamentary action of discussing the Indian appropriation bill, the house devoted almost the entire day to a political debate in which the main question was whether prosperity had come to the country as a result of the advent of the present administration.

As the speeches were limited to five minutes many members participated and a partisan spirit kept the interest keyed up to a high pitch. The acrimony which usually characterizes such debates was almost entirely absent and, although good natured, some hard knocks were given and received.

Smith, the delegate from Arizona, made an attack on the system of educating the Indians, and Walker moved to strike out the appropriation for the Carlisle school. No vote was taken on the motion to strike out.

NEW YORK SYMPATHY.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 25.—The state assembly last night adopted resolutions reciting that the cause of Cuba from the beginning of the revolution has deserved and received the sympathy of our people, "denouncing" the atrocities committed by Spanish troops and appealing to the national government to exercise its influence in behalf of peace by whatever means necessity may require, at the earliest moment when its obligations other than those affecting Spain will permit the termination of the struggle. These resolutions were adopted as a substitute for more radical ones demanding the recognition of the belligerency of the Cubans, the vote being 72 to 60.

BODY OF MRS. HOBSON ARRIVES.

Portland, Or., Jan. 25.—The body of Mrs. John Hobson, who died in Ventura, Cal., of consumption, arrived here today and was sent to Astoria tonight for burial.

BRITANNIA SOLD.

London, Jan. 25.—John Lawson Johnston, of Kirkwood, Kent, has sold the racing cutter Britannia, formerly the property of the Prince of Wales, to Ernest Teah Hooley, the millionaire speculator.

THE SURPRISE OF ALL.

Mr. James Jones, of the drug firm of Jones & Son, Corvallis, Ill., in speaking of Dr. King's New Discovery, says that last winter his wife was attacked with la grippe, and her case grew so serious that physicians at Corvallis and Paris could not do anything for her. It seemed to develop into a case of consumption. Having Dr. King's New Discovery in store, and seeing lots of it, he took a bottle home, and to the surprise of all she began to get better from first dose, and half a dozen bottles cured her sound and well. Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, coughs and colds is guaranteed to do this good work. Try it. Trial bottles at Estes-Corn Drug Company.

FREE PILLS.

Send your address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a free sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. A trial will convince you of their merits. These pills are easy in action and are particularly effective in the cure of constipation and sick headache. For malaria and liver troubles they have been proved invaluable. They are guaranteed to be perfectly free from every deleterious substance and to be purely vegetable. They do not weaken by their action, but by giving tone to stomach and bowels greatly invigorate the system. Regular size 25 cents per box. Sold by Estes-Corn Drug Co.

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