

Toilers of the Columbia

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CHAPTER XX.

Sankala to the Wheel.

Captain Budlong and the sheriff held a conference with Sankala. The girl had much to tell them that was of interest to their mission.

She had heard all of the plans of the northlanders and had watched for the approach of the boat that she might intercept it and inform the officers of the treachery of the pilot and the purposes of the law-breaking gillnetters.

She had heard them, long before midnight, agree to postpone the attack upon the northlanders until daylight, on account of the delay of some of their reinforcements and had also heard them state that Gabe Jarvi, the pilot on the boat to bring the soldiers, would keep away from them until they had finished with the northside fishermen.

It had been agreed by Gabe that he would run about the river until daylight, pretending to be hunting for the fishermen, when in fact he would be studiously avoiding them. In the ranks of his treachery he had promised to take the boat as near the bar as he dared to approach where the sea was rough and could upset the stomachs of the citizen soldiers.

Sankala had escaped from the old shack while the men were out on the beach arranging for the attack and had watched for the coming of the boat. She knew that it would go on the south side of the island in order to avoid an encounter with the fishermen who were lined up on the north side, and when she saw the light of the vessel far up the river she launched a boat which was some distance from the plotting fishermen and struck out to intercept the big craft that she might inform the officers. She had been successful, as the reader knows, but a dilemma now confronted the officers that was difficult to solve.

Neither of the officers knew anything about the river and none of the men had the slightest idea about navigation. Sankala told them that the boat was heading straight for the ocean and that they had passed all of the fishermen, who were lined up at the head of the island for the early morning attack.

"This fellow Jarvi is a very mean man," said Sankala. "He is now under bond for the murder of his aged father and is said to be the most brutal of the ignorant Finlanders on the north side of the river. I do not believe he would stop at even running this boat out over the bar where it would surely perish."

"What shall we do?" inquired Captain Budlong of the sheriff.

"Arrest him and put him in irons," replied the county official.

"But who would take care of the boat?" inquired the captain.

The two men went out on deck. Sankala followed them. They could see the breakers now leaping high in the air far away to the front of the vessel, and knew that this was where the river met the waves of the ocean.

"The accident seems to be carrying us straight to our death," said the captain.

"We will go to him and remonstrate," said the sheriff.

"And compel him at the muzzle of a gun to turn the course of the vessel," replied the captain of the militia.

The officers climbed the narrow stairway again and approached the pilot house. Jarvi disregarded their coming in silence. He held on to the wheel and kept the nose of the vessel pointing toward the breakers. Sankala had followed the officers and stood behind the smokestack where she availed herself of its warmth and at the same time could listen to the interview with the pilot.

"You have brought us past the fishermen and are taking us toward the ocean," said Captain Budlong.

The pilot ignored him in the accustomed manner of steamboat men.

"We want an explanation," demanded Budlong.

"Yes, and we want it at once," spoke the sheriff, who was a man of personal courage and accustomed to the nature of the rough men at the mouth of the river.

"I am running this boat," replied Jarvi.

"But you are running her in the wrong direction," said the captain.

"You had better run her yourself then, since you know so much about it," retorted the pilot scornfully.

"We understand nothing about steamboating, but we do know that you are going in the wrong direction," replied the sheriff.

"Well, if you know nothing about running a boat you had better go down stairs," said Jarvi.

"We will do nothing of the kind," said Budlong who was also a spirited fellow. "I, as commander of the forces for which this vessel was chartered, demand that you turn back and proceed to the head of the island."

"I can't do it," replied Jarvi.

"Why?" asked the captain.

"I am in the south channel and will now be compelled to round the west point of the island and return on the north side," said the pilot.

"Why do you come so far out of the way?" asked the sheriff.

"I went into the old south channel by accident and couldn't get out," replied Jarvi, doggedly.

The boat continued to head for the breakers. Jarvi looked coolly out into the dark ocean, now and then lit up by a dash of spray, while the officers looked on in doubt. They did not believe that he would take them into a death which would carry him with them.

The point of the island butting out toward the bar was now close at hand. While the breakers from the ocean came nearly to its shores, the men believed that the island could be passed by the flat bottomed river boat.

But Jarvi headed straight on.

"Why do you not turn to the right?" asked Captain Budlong.

CHAPTER XXI.

Old Seadog Wounded.

"We would run her into the sand," replied the pilot.

"But you are running her into the breakers," replied the sheriff.

"It is better for her there," coolly replied the treacherous man at the wheel.

The boat began to rock and leap like a wild animal which found itself suddenly in the clutches of an enemy. It was not a shell, on a level for the smooth waters of the river, and could not be expected to live on the ocean and especially on the river bar, one of the roughest places known to seamen. The men down stairs fell about the deck like drunkards and while some became deathly sick, others were alarmed.

Sankala could conceal her fears no longer. "That man," she said, "is taking us to our doom. The boat cannot live in this sea. He could have passed the point of the island without coming into the breakers. The water is deep there."

She had come from her place of concealment and spoke with all of the earnestness of a woman, and the coolness of a man.

Jarvi looked around at her with a ghastly smile of contempt, but did not budge the wheel.

"Consider yourself a prisoner," said Captain Budlong.

"All right," replied the pilot. Then he released the wheel and walked out of the pilot house. The boat leaped and reeled. The propelling wheel alternately rose above and sank deep into the water revolving as uselessly as a flutter-mill. The vessel was left to the mercy of the breakers.

The last extremity had been reached. The sheriff drew his revolver, and pointing it at Jarvi, said:

"Go back to that wheel and take us out of this or I shall shoot you like a dog!"

"All right," replied Jarvi in a contemptuous voice.

Then the man started as if he would enter the door of the pilot house, but he turned quickly and leaped into the foaming breakers below.

Sankala, keenly alive to the impending crisis, had headed and bare armed sprang to the wheel. She glanced down into the angry sea, and hurriedly examined the shores to see that their strength was being exhausted while that of their enemy was being increased by force of numbers.

The only hope of the northsiders was the arrival of the state troops. The militia was not ordered out for the purpose of taking part in the fight, if it could be avoided, but to patrol the river and prevent bloodshed.

The state maintained the right of its citizens to fish in the middle of the stream wherever that might be determined to be, and claimed the right to protect their life and property north of that point.

It was a question of boundary line and as such matters, each side constantly encroached on the rights of the other. The first bloodshed had brought out the worst element of the northside and they determined to drive back or destroy, even to the line of the north shore.

The boat came slowly down the river. The belligerent fishermen watched it with intense interest on both sides.

"I hope to God she brings the soldiers," repeated Old Seadog as it came nearer and nearer. "Gabe Jarvi will take care of them," casually remarked a southside leader to his companion.

It did contain the soldiers, and the reader already knows of its movements, and about the treachery of its pilot.

After the boat passed away to the south of the island, the northsiders relaxed into a feeling almost hopeless.

The night was cool and calm, but an unusual darkness settled down upon the waters. The stars shown out and gave forth shadows that darkened the surface of the water. A black veil hung above it like a mantle. The contending fishermen lay upon their arms and arms. The first flash of dawn would bring the northsiders upon their enemy. The northsiders were counseling one another to stand firm to the end. If they could only stay the destruction of their traps until the arrival of the soldiers they feared no further trouble.

With the first flash of the red in the east the northsiders moved out to the north. They did not apprehend any danger of interference from the soldiers. They left that to Gabe Jarvi. Their purpose was to make the fight final this morning. They knew that they possessed the numbers and should they succeed in destroying the northsiders' traps and return to their homes on the southside the victory they had so long sought would be complete. When once at their homes the enormity of their crime would be lost sight of in a measure and the future would find them masters of the river.

When the traps were once destroyed it would be difficult to rebuild them, and through the prejudice they expected to create against the traps, they hoped to interest their own state and the United States congress against the construction of fishtraps in the Columbia river. They had already sent a long petition to their congressman, not

only showing that the traps were destructive to the fish industry but were also detrimental and hazardous to navigation.

Asses, drags, arms and dynamite had been provided by the northsiders. They did not wish upon the whole to resort to bloodshed. They came, however, determined to win. They expected to do this through intimidation and overwhelming numbers.

But there were those among them who are always found in a mob organization, that preferred bloodshed to any other feature of the fight between the two factions.

The northsiders moved along like so many shadows to the attack. A couple of launches used for towing in the fishing boats on other occasions had been secured, and sailboats had been converted into rowboats for the morning attack. These were manned by large forces and formed a line for the main encounter.

Old Seadog had assembled his men near the center of the largest group of traps and took active command at this point. It meant more for him than for all the other northsiders combined and he interested himself accordingly.

He possessed an iron nerve and this was brought up to the highest tension. It was the critical point of the long struggle and should he lose, thousands of dollars worth of property would pass from his hands. With his traps destroyed his canny would be useless; with traps and canny both out of use the men would be out of employment and could not pay their bills at his store; neither could they pay their rent. The traps were the life of the town and the town was owned by Seadog.

His dark bottle rose and fell with the swell of the bay like a school of whales lying at rest, and old Seadog was as silent and watchful as the bull leader of such an aggregation. He was as rugged as a water dog and feared the waves no more than did old Neptune, who ruled them.

The sun was finally relieved. In the shadows of the slowly approaching morn could be seen the boats of the southsiders stretching up and down the river like a great black wave. Their numbers looked as ominous as did their dark line of advance.

"Men, to your arms and oars!" hissed old Seadog. And this command was taken up and passed down the line.

The arms consisted principally of long pole. These were cast for the boats of the enemy and at the same time to be used as engines in case of resistance and hand to hand conflict.

While it was a justifiable case for employing firearms, the fishermen found that they were not accustomed to their use and they realized further that the less bloodshed on the occasion the better it would be for their cause in the long run. This was the sentiment on both sides though many had brought along rifles and revolvers to use in the direst extremities.

CHAPTER XXII.

The White Man's Burden.

He had with his Ethel after a protracted courtship, and now, after he was fitted with a sense of duty and security, he thought it wise to ask one or two questions.

"I am sure you are not the sort of girl who would tell of domestic troubles before a man has eaten his dinner," he said, with confidence, but rising indignation.

"No, indeed," said Ethel.

"And when I said a trifle ruffled or worried you'd be the very one to say soothing things. Now, wouldn't you?" propped Henry.

"Certainly, I don't," said Ethel, "and you'd like to do it, too, I know."

"What?" asked Henry, with a sudden fall to earth.

"The soothing and comforting, and putting me in good humor when the cook had been called to her aunt's funeral for the third time, and your business friends were coming to dinner," said Ethel, gently.

"Yes, of course I should try to," faltered Henry.

"And when you'd been bored at the office with your cousins from the country you'd never speak of till dinner was all over, would you, dear Henry?" said the trusting Ethel. "I know the sort of man you are, who wants to carry his share of the burdens, don't you?"

"I—hope you do," said Henry, in a disheartened tone. "Let us speak of the new magazines, Ethel, and why not go out on the piazza, where it is cooler?"—Youth's Companion.

Opal Fossil of a Shark.

Since they were first discovered the famous opal fields at White Cliffs, N. S. W. have yielded many curious fossils, particularly those of prehistoric marine life. But the latest discovery is a most extraordinary one, and will prove of the deepest interest to the scientific world.

It is that of a fossilized, or rather opalized, member of the shark family, which was found on block No. 4, at a depth of thirty-five feet from the surface. The Sydney press says that the specimen measured 3 feet 6 inches from the snout to the tip of the tail. The body is in seven sections, the circumference of the largest of which (the head and shoulder portions) is eighteen inches; each section is six inches in length.

The deeply indented eye-sockets show plainly, and thin veins of purple opal encircle the fish from tip to tip. At the mouth these veins make an oblong and clearly defined course, though the continuity is occasionally broken. No particulars as to weight are given, but as the fossil has been sent to London these and other matters of interest will soon be determined. It was purchased from the miners by an opal buyer.

Worse and Worse.

"My wife and I went to call on the Dumleys last night. I can't imagine anything more tiresome than spending an evening with them."

"You can't? Wait till they come to spend an evening with you."—Philadelphia Press.

Soul Sorrow.

"Madam, your husband has been murdered and robbed."

"Just my luck! I forgot to go through his pockets last night."—Town Topics.

It is generally more profitable to reckon up our defects than to boast of our attainments.—Caryle.

WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

A Russian captain has been arrested for criticizing the admiralty.

Washington has four aspirants for the office of fish commissioner.

The Southern states are flooding Roosevelt with invitations to visit them.

The remains of Kruger, the ex-president of the Transvaal, have arrived at Pretoria.

Severe akimolhas have occurred on the Shalke river in which the Russians were defeated.

A Japanese cruiser struck a mine at the entrance to the Port Arthur harbor and sank. Of the crew only 39 were lost.

A number of prominent Russian officials have resigned on the czar declaring he will stand by the new minister of the interior.

Twenty years ago, when both were stationed at Paris, General Kuropatkin and General Teruchi, now Japanese minister of war, met and became fast friends. On the eve of the present war an exchange of swords as presents took place between them.

The first snow of the season has fallen in Eastern Oregon.

St. Petersburg authorities deny that a famine exists in Southern Russia.

The torpedo boats at Port Arthur have not been sunk, and they may try to escape.

It is reported that the czar has ordered the Baltic fleet not to proceed to the Far East.

Secretary Hay will ask congress to increase the salaries of a number of diplomats.

Governor elect Douglas will appoint General Miles as adjutant general of the Massachusetts militia.

The school coal mine, near Peoria, Illinois, is on fire. There were 100 men at work at the time the flames were discovered, but all escaped. The property loss will be heavy.

The house committee on rivers and harbors has decided to send for some of the district engineers, as they desire to hear from them on the needs of rivers and harbors in their respective districts.

Many shells sent to the Russians at Mukden have proved defective.

A son of General Nogi was killed in the attack on 203-Meter hill at Port Arthur.

The Japanese have sunk all the Russian battleships and cruisers at Port Arthur.

Japan has signified her willingness to participate in a second Hague peace conference.

So far in the Far Eastern war Russia has lost 23 warships of all classes and the Japanese four.

Roosevelt has abandoned the idea of a special session of congress in the spring to consider tariff revision.

A bill will be introduced in congress to connect the canal zone on the isthmus with the United States by cable.

Secretary Shaw will urge congress to increase the appropriation for the Tacoma public building from \$400,000 to \$800,000.

The handwriting experts in the Denver election frauds found evidences of repeating for both the Democratic and Republican tickets.

Senator Mitchell has a fight on his hands to secure the chairmanship of the canal committee, made vacant by the death of Hanna. The stand he took for the Nicaragua route two years ago is the cause.

Liberal appropriations for Columbia river jetties are assured.

Innkeepers have lost 3,000 men trying to retake 303-Meter hill.

Cooms county will spend \$100,000 on Lewis and Clark fair exhibit.

Japanese from 203 Meter hill are shelling Russian fleet and have sunk one battleship and set a number of other ships on fire.

A grand jury has been empaneled to investigate the Denver election frauds.

Taft acknowledges he made a mistake in extending Dingley tariff to canal zone at Panama celebration.

A prominent caneyman says greed and defiance of the law are ruining the salmon industry of the Columbia river.

The jury in the land fraud cases found five of the defendants guilty as charged, but cleared Miss Marie Ware.

Senator Platt will introduce a bill to reduce the representation of several states, particularly in the South.

Germany is doubling her military strength at Kiaochow, the German port on the Shan Tung peninsula, and sending there an experienced officer from the Admiralty staff.

Eighteen persons were injured, some of them seriously, in a New York fire.

Simon Lake, an inventor, is building a submarine torpedo boat at Newport News in which he expects to cross the Atlantic. The new vessel is to be 83 feet long and proportionately large. She will carry four torpedo tubes.

It is said the large shipment of beef from Omaha for the Russian army will go by way of the Puget sound instead of Portland.

James M. Tynes, postmaster general under President Grant and assistant attorney general until forced to resign under the recent postal fraud investigation, is dead.

A Santa Fe train was held up and robbed between Ludlow and Diggins, Cal., and the express messenger wounded. Frauds and money to the amount of \$6,000 was secured.

TO RUSH LAND FRAUD CASES.

Nation Asks Appeals of Hyde, Benson and Dimond Be Heard.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Solicitor General Hoyt, on behalf of the government, today filed a motion asking the supreme court to advance for hearing the appeal taken by Frederick A. Hyde and Henry P. Dimond from the decision of Judge Morrow, of San Francisco, who directed that they be brought to Washington for trial on indictments for conspiracy to defraud the government out of large tracts of public lands. In his petition the solicitor general states that the appeals were "taken for purposes of delay and to prevent the appellants from being removed to the District of Columbia for trial."

A similar motion was also filed in regard to the appeal of John A. Benson, also alleged to be a member of the San Francisco land ring, who was arrested in New York on a Washington indictment charging him with bribing officials in the general land office.

Benson is out on \$10,000 bail and trying to escape trial in Washington.

The solicitor general expects to be given a hearing today in support of his motion, and if the court advances the cases there is every prospect that the famous San Francisco land ring will be placed on trial in this city during the present winter.

DECREASE IN WHEAT ACREAGE.

Department of Agriculture Also Reports on Condition of Crops.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The crop report issued today by the department of agriculture says:

Returns to the chief of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture indicate that the newly seeded area of winter wheat is about 31,155,000 acres, a decrease of 1.6 per cent from the area sown in the fall of 1903, as finally estimated. The condition of winter wheat on December 1 was 82.9, as compared with 86.6 in 1903, 99.8 in 1902, and a 10 year average of 92.1. The acreage as compared with last year is 98.4 per cent. The newly seeded area of winter rye is provisionally estimated at 96.7 per cent of the area sown in the fall of 1903. The condition of winter rye on December 1 was 90.6, as compared with 92.7 on December 1, 1903, 98.1 at the corresponding date in 1902, and 96.2 the mean of December averages of the last ten years.

The percentage of acreage sown to winter rye this fall as compared with that sown last fall is 86.7, the average condition December 1, 1904, was 90.5. Corresponding averages for 1903 and 1902 were 92.7 and 98.1, respectively, and the mean of the December average of the last ten years 90.2.

The final estimates of the total acreage production and farm value of the principal crops for 1904 will be issued on December 28 at 4 o'clock P. M.

WAR CRAFT TO GO ON LINER.

Torpedo Boats for Russia Shipped from New Jersey Yard.

New York, Dec. 13.—Nine torpedo boats, built at Perth Amboy, N. J., for the Russian government, have been completed, and left the yards today. They were loaded on a barge and towed to New York. They will be shipped as merchandise on a liner.

The tenth boat will cross the ocean under its own power. Two six-cylinder gasoline engines have been installed. Each is expected to develop a 300-horsepower, and drive the little boat at a speed of 20 knots. The crew of eight men is already aboard the boat, which is 40 feet long. Below deck it is not possible to stand erect, for there is only a few foot space. Should the passage be stormy, the crew will be almost as effectually bottled up as in a submarine. The only entrance to the compartments below deck is through a conning tower, from which the boat is navigated.

Each boat will carry one torpedo tube. One of the five watertight compartments into which the hull is divided will contain the spare torpedoes.

SCHOOL TO TEACH SOCIALISM.

New York, Dec. 13.—Inspired by the national vote, 600,000 for Debs at the last election, the New York section of the Socialist party issued a statement today to the effect that it has laid plans for establishing a school of socialism. A board of instructors has been appointed, consisting of Morris Hillquit, Algenon Lee, Henry L. Slobodkin and John Spargo. The school term is to extend from the first week in January to the last week in May, and there will be one lesson each week, or 21 lessons in all.

Men Blown to Atoms.

Cattleshire, Ky., Dec. 13.—An explosion of a tank of glycerine blew to atoms three men, totally demolished three boats, splintered a big raft of logs, smashed windows along Front street and did much damage to property along the river front today. The explosion occurred on the river below the wharf, from causes which will never be known. Three men were taking 300 quarts of explosive to Mayeville, where it was to have been used in shooting wells.

Kuropatkin Reports Encounters.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 13.—General Kuropatkin reports some unimportant encounters during the night of December 8. Russian sharpshooters reconnoitering south of Bentshan, attacked a Japanese post, bayoneted a number of Japanese and took 11 prisoners, of whom only four were wounded. The same night a number of Japanese attacks were made on Russian advanced intrenchments near the railroad. They were all repulsed.

May Have Sunk Own Ships.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 13.—The statement that the Russian warships at Port Arthur were sunk by the Russians as a protection from the Japanese gun fire is regarded at the admiralty as being quite possible. If true, it is interpreted as a sign that General Stoessel believes the fortress can hold out until the arrival of the second Pacific squadron. The supposition is that the garrison, in a last resort, will retire to the Liao Li forts.

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

WATER ECHO LAND.

Coming Season Will See Rapid Advance in Irrigation.

Echo—The coming season will mark more improvements and enterprises in irrigation for Echo and the vicinity tributary than ever before experienced. Not only are there immense extensions planned for old ditches, but new ones are being constructed, and land lying under both old ditches and proposed ditches is prepared for cultivation for the coming year.

With the hope of having more favorable irrigation laws passed in the coming legislature, those who have been planning projects are beginning activities. Heretofore the present laws or the lack of laws pertaining to water rights have interfered with the development of the country. Water has been in dispute. Land has been in litigation, and those who have been anxious to see the betterment of Echo and its splendid lands have hesitated in risking their all in projects that might at any time be taken into court.

The Butter creek water company has purchased an elevating grader and has commenced widening and strengthening their ditch. The Cold spring irrigation company is preparing to extend the company's ditch across to their lands on the north side of the Umatilla river, and a company has been formed to build a small ditch to water a tract of land of 100 acres adjoining Echo, now in sagebrush. The Maxwell ditch people are improving and enlarging their ditch until it will reclaim nearly 8,000 acres of land.

Besides these ditches smaller ones are constantly being built, and in a few years the entire section of waste land will be homes for farmers. This season a large number of land holders are clearing large tracts of land varying in size from 20 to 60 acres, and will sow to alfalfa.

SUSLAW WORK UNFINISHED.

Congress to Be Asked to Make Use of Plant Already Installed.

Eugene—In view of the uncompleted condition of the bar improvement at the mouth of the Suslaw river, prominent citizens of this county are now interested in bringing the matter before the river and harbor committee of congress, hoping to make it clear to that body that the continuation of work on that harbor would be wise.

Many years ago the government began the improvement of the Suslaw harbor, after abundant reports had been secured from engineers regarding the proper method of deepening the water on the bar. The plan adopted was the jetty system. Small appropriations were made and the work progressed to the extent of the funds available. Then all would rest until another small appropriation would be made. The jetty was only fairly under way and just beginning to show what might be done, when appropriations ceased to come.

The business of the harbor has been increasing and now amounts to considerable, and business men of Florence and Eugene hope to prevail upon congress to go ahead and finish the work now well begun. The government has a plant with which to stop and build in a short time deepen the channel several feet by the confining of the water to the channel.

QUIT WOOD FOR COAL.

Wood for Fuel in Getting Scarce About Pendleton.

Pendleton—Fuel dealers of the inland empire are of the opinion that the day of wood burning is soon done, as coal is rapidly replacing it. The best of coal from the Wyoming beds is sold at this place for \$5.50 a ton, and the coal from British Columbia and Washington beds is fast becoming generally used, both in Oregon and Washington.

At Kamela and Meacham, from where Walla Walla and Pendleton draw the greater part of their wood, there seems to be immense quantities stacked in ricks for shipment, but competent judges of fuel say that but about 25 per cent of it is clear, dry, green-wood, such as commands the high prices. So closely has the timber supply been cut away that two trips a day hauls are being made from back in the mountains six and eight miles. Although spurs from the main line back in the mountains might easily be built, they will probably never be built, as coal will be much cheaper than the construction of a road.

Safe Cracked at Hood River.

Hood River—Robbers cracked the safe in the Hood River postoffice, and got away with \$227 in stamps and \$173 in money. There is no clue as to the thieves, except that a crowbar and other tools used in effecting an entrance came from the railroad shops here. On discovering his loss Postmaster Yates immediately wired the postal inspectors at Portland, who will make efforts to apprehend the culprits. Common black powder was used in cracking the safe door. One or two persons sleeping near by claim to have heard a slight explosion during the night, but paid no attention to the noise.

Big Business by Sugar Plant.

In Grande—The whistle of the best sugar factory here has sounded the last call for its employees, and has shut down after one of the most successful runs it has made since its establishment in this valley, it having consumed something over 21,000 tons of beets, which yielded over 55,100 pounds of sugar. The entire season's run was made without a hitch, much to the satisfaction of all concerned, and the many persons who embarked in the raising of sugar beets express themselves as well satisfied with their venture.

Sets Fire to School.

Albany—A fire that came near costing Albany the central school building was narrowly averted by the active work of the fire brigade. Incendiaries undoubtedly did the work. Just a few minutes before 6 o'clock an alarm was turned in, when the basement of the public school building was discovered in flames. Someone had built a fire against the cold air shaft, which would distribute the flames to all parts of the structure, and when the department arrived the basement was inflamed and the air shaft almost eaten through.

Insures a Good Crop.

Pendleton—The rains that have fallen on the past few days have proved of inestimable benefit to the wheat growers of the country, although not a great amount of water has fallen. What rain has fallen has dampened the ground sufficiently to insure the sprouting will insure a good crop for the coming season. Some of the grain sown several weeks ago is still lying in the ground unspouted.

Indians in Better Health.

Pendleton—Dr. T. M. Henderson, who has been in attendance upon the cases of diphtheria among the Indians at the mission on the reservation, reports that no others have taken the disease, and that those affected are rapidly recovering. Only one of the patients has died, the others having been inoculated with toxine in the early stages of the malady.

Coming Events.

Poultry shows—Salem, December 15-17; Portland, December 20-25; Newberg, January 10-13; Albany, January 18-21.

Oregon Good Roads convention, Salem, December 13-15.

Oregon State Dairymen's association, December 30-31.

Inland Empire Sunday School institute, Pendleton, January 30.

Northwest Wheat Markets.

Portland—Walla Walla, 83c; bluestem, 85c; valley, 87 1/2c.

Tacoma—Bluestem, 85c; club, 86c.

Turns Out Many Bricks.

Weston—Clark Nelson, manager of the Weston brickyard, has returned from The Dalles, where he has been on business connected with his yard. The new I. O. O. F. temple, for which he furnished brick, has just been completed and will be dedicated at an early date. Four hundred thousand bricks were used in its construction. While in The Dalles Mr. Nelson closed a contract for the sale of 300,000 brick to be used in the construction of the new bank to be erected at Condon. The brick will not be delivered until the railroad, which runs from Arlington, Condon, is completed, which will be early in the spring.

Land Sales Fallen Off.

Salem—The 5 per cent land sales fund in Oregon this year is \$64,562.24, as compared with \$90,135.24 last year. This fund is received from the United States and is 5 per cent of the receipts from the sales of government land in Oregon. The year 1903 was a bumper one in public land business in Oregon, due in a large degree no doubt to the activity of men who were securing timber land through the mediumship of people who bought it and soon thereafter transferred it to the men who furnished the money for the deal.

Needs of the Station.

Astoria—To complete the construction of the government quarantine station at the mouth of the Columbia river an additional appropriation of about \$85,000 is necessary. The plans for the station were made a long time ago, but only about half the construction work has been done, owing to lack of funds, although the department has requested several times that the money be sent aside for the purpose. While several improvements are needed at the station, the most important is a retention hospital.

Sold Half Interest in Ranch.

La Grande—An important real estate deal has been perfected at Elgin, 35 miles from here. H. Tower has sold one-half interest in the property known as Hindman & Towner's Indian creek farm to J. L. Hindman, the consideration for the half interest in the land and livestock being \$90,000. This farm is about two miles from Elgin, and contains 1,160 acres, and is one of the best agricultural properties in Union county.

War on Scabby Sheep.

Eugene—County Stock Inspector A. G. Mathews is now engaged in an attempt at purifying the sheep of the county, reports having been received from some sections that scab has been observed. Mathews went out to the district northwest of Junction to investigate reports of stockmen driving diseased sheep on the county road in violation of the law, and expects to make some arrests. One arrest and conviction for this offense has been made.

Will Chop the Alfalfa.

Echo—Robert Standfield, who resides on Butter creek, 16 miles west of here, has received a large hay cutter to chop alfalfa hay for winter feeding. A gasoline engine supplies the power. In feeding the hay unchopped the large stems remain un eaten and are wasted, but by chopping the stock eat the hay up clean, saving a large per cent of the hitherto waste.

New Shipping Point for Coal Mine.

Coquille—The Coquille Coal & L