

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER.

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The New York Assembly has ordered an investigation into the lobby and its methods.

The bill for the eleventh census calls for an appropriation of \$6,000,000.

The Hennepin Canal steal has been again shelved by a committee of the House.

Four thousand Irish emigrants sailed from Queenstown for the United States in one day last week.

The Post office Appropriation Bill proposes to devote \$60,133,340 to the support of the Post-office Department.

The New York Senate has passed a bill to limit the number of liquor licenses to one to each 300 of population.

A city ticket composed of women for the Council and a woman for Mayor has been elected at Oskaloosa, Kans.

The reduction of the public debt during March amounted to \$21,586,559 68. Total cash in the treasury, \$586,454,002 66.

The gavel used by the presiding officers of the United States Senate has been in use for over fifty years. It is made out of an elephant's tooth and has no handle, nor it never had one.

The New York Democratic State Convention for the election of delegates to the National Convention will be held in this city on Tuesday, May 15th.

A bill has been introduced in the United States Senate to remove the prohibition against the appointment of ex-Confederates to positions in the regular army.

The four best advertised men in America to-day, and without the expenditure of a cent on their part, are Robert G. Ingersoll, Chauncey M. Depew, Father McGlynn and Roscoe Conkling.

Some experiments have been placed on record (says the London *Electrician*), in which a number of eggs were hatched out in a magnetic field, with the result that the chickens were all more or less deformed—blind, deaf or lame.

Much of the so-called ivory now in use is simply potato. A good, sound potato was soaked in diluted sulphuric acid, then boiled in the same solution, and then slowly dried, is already to be turned into buttons, poker chips and innumerable other things that ivory was used for once upon a time.

The saloon has evidently lost its grip in Philadelphia. The judges of the License Court, acting under the new law, are manifesting the most contemptuous indifference to the interests of the liquor-selling tribe, and seem actually to relish the opportunity to smite the business his and thigh.

While England is contemplating a monument to Raleigh, France has decided on one for Parmentier. It would be hard to suggest the names of two men who had less in common; but each in his own country will be recognized as the introducer of the potato. Parmentier's is a clearer title than Raleigh's.

A bill introduced by Senator Morrill, now before both Houses of Congress, confers upon the director of the mint, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury, the power "to cause new designs or models of authorized emblems or devices to be prepared and adopted" for use in the coinage of the country. This is an admirable measure.

At Wath, in Yorkshire, six dozen hot cross buns are thrown from the top of the tower of the parish church at noon on Good Friday, in accordance with the will of Thomas Tuke. At one time forty dozen used to be thrown but the crowd used to create a riot in the church yard, and it was at length decreed to distribute thirty-four dozen more sensibly at the church door.

The strength of shafts or bars of iron is, for bending and twisting strains, as the cubes of their diameter. Thus, a two-inch shaft is eight times as strong as a one-inch shaft, while a three-inch shaft is twenty-seven times as strong.—*Boston Budget*.

TELEGRAPHIC.

An Epitome of the Principal Events Now Attracting Public Interest.

Roscoe Conkling died at his home in New York after a short illness.

McDowell Crawford, colored, was shot and killed by an unknown person at a point two miles from Nolensville, Tenn.

The body of a Chinaman was found hanging to a tree about three miles from New Westminster, B. C. An inquest was held and a verdict of suicide was returned.

Thomas M. Kennedy, a wealthy cattle dealer, of Bownsville, Texas, was killed by Sheriff Jose Marie Esparza, a wealthy Mexican near Ferry Landing, Texas.

At Jennear, La., in a dispute at the polls Nicholas Provost was shot dead, and his brother L. P. Provost, was mortally wounded. The trouble is said to have arisen from a family feud.

Carrie Beiswenger, while scrubbing at Wheeling, W. Va., ran a big splinter under her thumb-nail. A physician removed it, but the arm swelled badly, and lock-jaw set in, and it is said the girl cannot live.

The Western nail manufacturers met at Pittsburg, Penn., and fixed the basis of a scale of prices. The scale slightly advances nails between ten and twenty penny, and will reduce those under ten-penny.

The jail at Friars Point, Tenn., was burned, and five prisoners perished in the flames. An effort was made to rescue them, but without success. The jail is supposed to have been fired by one of the inmates who was under sentence to the penitentiary.

The assembly at Albany, N. Y., passed a bill providing for the execution of the death penalty by means of electricity. This is the bill recommended by the commission. It prohibits newspapers from publishing details of executions.

While two Indian policemen attempted to arrest Sacate, an Apache Indian, and his son, at Los Cruces, N. M., who were drunk and causing trouble in camp, a fight ensued in which one of the policemen were killed. Sacate's son was fatally and three women were severely injured by stray shots.

Chester Draper was accidentally shot and killed by Percy Candland, at Salt Lake City, while a party of which Draper was one were serenading a newly married couple, friends of Candland. The latter fired the shots as a practical joke, to frighten the serenaders.

The marines and blue jackets of the North Atlantic squadron, participated in a sham battle, at Pensacola, Fla. Five blue jackets and a marine were wounded. It is supposed the material in the cone of a shell had hardened, and tore off, the metal cone wounding the men.

Two notorious criminals were captured at Billings, Mont., having in their possession fifty-eight head of horses, bearing thirteen well-known Nevada brands. One of the men has been recognized as Teton, the noted horse thief and murderer, for whose capture there are rewards aggregating \$6,000, in Nevada and Idaho.

The residence of D. A. Hoffman, a farmer near Oak Ridge, Mo., was burned and three of his children were consumed. Three other children were so badly burned that it is expected they will die, and Hoffman was so seriously injured that he died. It is thought Hoffman became suddenly insane, and fired his house himself.

Frankie, the little daughter of Robert Pell, of Paducah, Ky., was burned to death. She was playing with her brother around a fire in the yard during the absence of her parents. Her clothing ignited and was totally burned from her body. She survived but a couple of hours.

Edward Cossar, a colored man of St. Louis, possessed of considerable wealth, returned to his home unexpectedly, and found Rev. Sidney Hibler, pastor of the Methodist church and principal of the school, at his home. Not being satisfied with his explanation, he shot him in the head, killing him instantly.

Orrin Steere, a farmer, living near the village of Lisbon, N. H., while sitting in his dining-room reading a paper, in company with his family, was killed by an unknown assassin, who literally blew the top of his head off. A load of buckshot was fired through a window four feet away. No reason is assigned for the crime. The entire country is hunting the murderer.

As five section men were passing the Gerlings White Sand Company's works in a hand car, on the St. Louis, Kansas City & Colorado road, near La Bodie, Mo., a blast exploded, blowing an immense rock upon the hand car. All of the men were fatally hurt. Their names are Harry McCowan, Thomas Bemmor, Smith Dougherty, Clark Patton and Ed. Shepherd. Three of them died.

COAST CULLINGS.

Devoted Principally to Washington Territory and California.

A. Treffell, who was badly burned in the fire at Bodie, died.

A postoffice has been established at Medakakhta, Alaska, and William Duncan was appointed postmaster.

John B. Bennett has been appointed postmaster at Kent, King county, Washington territory, in place of W. H. Morton, who has resigned.

Charles John Zimmerman, engineer in the railroad yards at Nogales, A. T., was shot and instantly killed on the street by John Sherman.

Abraham Winn, was killed in a shaft at Colusa, M. T., being knocked out of the cage by striking the wall in ascending.

Wm. Deffney was struck by a large piece of rock falling from overhead in the 300-foot level in the west Colusa mine, M. T., and it is doubtful if he recovers.

Another car load of colored immigrants arrived from Charlotte, N. C., at Fresno, to work in the vineyards. Another installment will follow the 10th of next month.

William Snead, postmaster at Seato, Thurston county, Washington territory, has been removed, and S. M. Blumaer appointed postmaster in his place.

E. O. Bagge, a native of Schleswig, Holstein, and professor of music, shot himself in the head at Los Angeles, dying soon after. Despondency was the cause.

Hi James, wanted at Stockton, Cal., for the murder of Lem Dougherty at Lodi a year ago, has been captured at Hailey, Idaho. James shot at a gambler, and killed Dougherty, a by-stander.

Marshal Meade, who arrested and convicted Smart and Green, the train robbers, at Tucson, Ariz., has been awarded \$4,000 by the Southern Pacific Company.

Sydney March, who was killed by a runaway horse at the blooded horse races in San Francisco, was a resident of Portland some years ago, where he was engaged in the dry goods business.

A railroad laborer named Joseph Davis, was killed near Pomona, Cal., by a Southern Pacific train running through an open switch and striking a hand car. A number of others had a narrow escape.

Arents Hendricks, 6 years of age, was probably fatally burned at Oroville, Cal. While playing with matches his clothes caught fire and burned the lower part of his body so that the flesh came off in pieces.

The postoffice and store at Washougal, W. T., kept by Geary & Herzog, was entered by a 13-year old boy named Chris Gobel, and robbed. The boy stole a sum of money, a quantity of postage stamps, cutlery and other small shelf goods.

Myers's salmon cannery at West Seat, W. T., on the other side of the harbor, caught fire and burned to the ground. The loss is about \$15,000. The seines, tin, boiler, engines and other cannery equipments were insured for \$840.

Michael Morris, a German tailor, 28 years of age, who recently escaped from the Territorial asylum at Stella, and has spent the past few days wandering aimlessly about the court house and county jail, was adjudged insane and taken to Salem.

Louis Schwartz, 3-year-old son of Simon Schwartz, a merchant of San Francisco, was run over by a truck on Folsom street and instantly killed. D. Stevens, the driver of the truck, surrendered to the police and was charged with manslaughter.

A reporter named Bruce Douglas, attempted to commit suicide at Los Angeles. He shot himself through the shoulder, after a struggle with another reporter who tried to prevent the deed. Douglas claims to be the last living descendant of the Earl of Douglas.

At the coroner's inquest in the case of John Melsutt, the Maltese chicken peddler who was murdered in his room at San Francisco, the jury found that in their opinion deceased came to his death by blows from a hatchet or an ax in the hands of Julian Partelli, his partner.

An old pioneer named John Burton was found dead at Downville, Cal. His chest was entirely gone, and the contents of the cavity were blown away. He was mining alone, and it is supposed committed suicide by placing a cartridge of giant powder on his breast.

The board of directors of the San Francisco Cremation Company, held a meeting. A committee was appointed, with full power to act in regard to the building of a crematory and furnace. The sum of \$2,000 was appropriated for that purpose, and a furnace will be erected on a lot which was purchased some time ago by the company for \$4,000.

Charles Nielson, a sailor, from Forfarshire, died in the Astoria hospital of consumption.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Legislation Pertaining to the Interest of the Pacific Coast.

SENATE.

Senator Mitchell introduced a bill, making it unlawful for the postmaster general to annul a contract which had been made for carrying mail until the contract had expired, unless the service is to be expedited in different manner from that provided under contract.

The senate committee on foreign relations decided by a party vote, to report the fisheries treaty adversely.

Mayor Pond will appear before the house committee on public lands, to present the case of the wagon road land grant in Oregon.

Teller reported back the house bill to give validity to certain patents for inventions that were irregularly issued, being signed by the second assistant secretary of the interior, instead of the secretary himself; passed.

Butler reported back the house bill to ratify and confirm an act of the New Mexico legislature creating the county of San Juan; passed, with an amendment declaring Aztec the county seat.

The total number of bills and resolutions introduced in the senate and house is 12,568. So far the house has passed 425 bills, and the senate 831, and 185 house bills and 24 senate bills, been sent to the president for his approval.

HOUSE.

Hermann has been notified by Postmaster-General Dickinson that the mail service between Vale and Burns, Or., has been increased.

The house committee on judiciary decided to report favorably the copyright bill introduced by Breckenridge.

Hermann urged the Secretary of the Interior to direct his agents, during the coming summer, to exercise careful watch to prevent forest fires next summer in Oregon and elsewhere.

Belmont introduced a bill to prohibit the coming of Chinese laborers in the United States; referred. Its main provisions are similar to those contained in the new treaty.

The conference report upon the bill authorizing the President to arrange a conference between the United States and South and Central American republics, Hayti, San Domingo and the empire of Brazil, was agreed to.

The bill to establish a department of labor was passed.

Bain, of Pennsylvania, offered an amendment providing that in Indian day and training schools that are church organizations, and are assisting in educational work, the Christian bible may be taught in the native language of the Indian, if, in the opinion of the persons in charge of the school, it is deemed conducive to the moral welfare of the pupils; adopted.

A bill general in its character, forfeiting all lands opposite railroad lines not completed within the time specified by law, was agreed to by the house committee on Pacific railroads.

The Indian and pension appropriation bills passed the house.

PORTLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

BUTTER—		
Fancy roll, # lb.	40	
Oregon	15 @ 25	35
Pickled	18 @ 25	35
California roll	28 @ 35	
do pickled		
CHEESE—		
Eastern, full cream	16 @ 20	
Oregon, do	14 @ 16	14
California		14
Eggs—Fresh	@ 20	
DRIED FRUITS—		
Apples, qrs, sds and bxs	@ 6	
do California	@ 6	
Apricots, new crop	18 @ 28	
Peaches, unpeeled, new	12 @ 24	
Pears, machine dried	10	
Pitted cherries	40	
Pitted plums, Oregon	@ 12	
Figs, Cal., in bgs and bxs	@ 9	
Cal. Prunes, French	8 @ 10	
Oregon prunes	10 @ 12	
FLOUR—		
Portland Pat. Roller, # bbl	4 00	
do California	4 00	
White Lily # bbl	4 25	
Country brand	3 50 @ 3 75	
Superfine	2 50 @ 2 75	
GRAIN—		
Wheat, Valley, # 100 lbs	1 22 @ 1 25	
do Waila Waila	1 15 @ 1 16	
Barley, whole, # cbl	1 12	
do ground, # ton	20 00 @ 25 00	
Oats, choice milling # bush	47 @ 50	
do feed, good to choice, old	46 @ 47	
Rye, # 100 lbs	1 10 @ 1 25	
FEED—		
Bran, # ton	16 00 @ 17 00	
Shorts, # ton	15 00 @ 16 00	
Hay, # ton, baled	@ 18 00	
Chop, # ton	23 00 @ 25 00	
Oil cake meal # ton	32 00 @ 33 00	
FRESH FRUITS—		
Apples, Oregon, # box	1 25 @ 1 50	
Cherries, Oregon, # drin	4 00 @ 4 25	
Lemons, California, # bx	4 00 @ 4 50	
Limes, # 100	1 25	
Riverside oranges, # box	@	
Los Angeles, do do	@	
Peaches, # box	@	
HIDES—		
Dry, over 16 lbs, # lb	11 @ 12	
Wet salted, over 55 lbs	7 @ 8	
Murrayn hides	7 @ 9	
Pelts	10 @ 1 25	
VEGETABLES—		
Cabbage, # lb	@ 1 23	
Carrots, # sack	@ 1 70	
Cauliflower, # doz	@ 1 10	
Onions	@ 1 10	
Potatoes, new, # 100 lbs	7 @	
WOOL—		
East Oregon, Spring clip	14 @ 16	
Valley Oregon, do	16 @ 18	

AGRICULTURAL.

Devoted to the Interests of Farmers and Stockmen.

Two Valuable Farm Crops.

C. E. Cole, writing from Buckner, Mo., says: I give you my experience with two of the most valuable farm plants I have ever known. First, the mammoth Russian sun flower, which has proved to be a positive preventive of malaria, also a quick cure for colic or founder in horses by drenching with strong tea made by mashing the seeds. It is also the best egg and butter producing food for fowls and cows, and very fattening for horses fed in small quantities by breaking up the heads with seeds in tuems. It will produce over 100 bushels per acre on rich and, besides a large quantity of good fodder—stalks, 2 to 2 1/2 inches thick and 7 to 14 feet long. These make an enormous quantity of good kindling and stove wood. Seed heads are 12 to 18 inches across, which, with the seed in them make fuel equal to coal or wood on account of there being 30 or 40 per cent of rich oil in them.

Planting put one seed 3x3 feet, in climates and latitudes, and time from early spring to the first of July. If people of the Northwest, where blizzards prevail, would plant only an acre, they will have enough stalks and seed to warm them a whole year. It stands drouth splendidly. I would as soon miss a crop of corn as it.

Second—I send a small package of the wonderful prolific flour corn that is as white as snow and makes flour equal to wheat and the best roasting ears known. Each grain, by shooting, produces from three to six stalks, from one to three ears and four times more and better stock fodder than other corn, as the stalks are soft and as sweet as sugar, which causes stock to eat it, stalk and all, clean after it is cured. It is good for canning. My little patch last year made at the rate of 144 bushels per acre, notwithstanding drouth and chinch bugs. It does well north or south.

I sent you a small package of each. If you will split the grain open you will find a solid mass of flour itself. I will send a trial package of each to those who send me stamps for mailing. The sunflower makes fuel here and saved many lives in Kansas last winter. In growing the corn, don't pull off the suckers. I have seen twelve good ears and eight stalks from one hill.—*Oregonian*.

Many half hardy plants, which are left in the ground and are destroyed by the severity of our winters, might be saved by covering the plant with a fairly deep coating of ashes, which may be raked over the soil and dug in when spring comes.

Wood ashes also form an excellent manure for plants, and spread over lawns produce beneficial effects. In dressing a lawn with ashes it is best done when wet weather is likely to follow. After being spread on the lawn ought to be rolled. The result will be a strong, close growth of fresh grass for the ensuing season.

By trying a small corn cob to one leg, allowing it to dangle at a distance of about six inches, a Main poultry fancier is said to succeed in keeping her chickens at home. The fowl can scratch and get about with ease, but will not attempt to fly over palings or squeeze through a crack.

California stage proprietors are said to ask all the wood-work of wagons and vehicles in oil before putting the parts together. The oil used is crude petroleum. If the wood work cannot be soaked an application on the outside, using a brush, once in eight weeks is excellent. The method is said to prevent the wood from swelling or shrinking, and saves much valuable time, as there is less repairing.

The report of Col. Switzer, chief of the bureau of statistics on wool and manufactures of wool, is ready for distribution. The report shows that the number of sheep in the United States increased from 19,000,000 in 1840 to 51,000,000 in 1884, but declined to 45,000,000 in 1887. This marked decline occurred mainly in the Southern and Western States, and is attributed to the decline in the price of wool since 1884.

An advocate of corn-fed pork admits that the hog fed miscellaneously has the sweetest and tenderest meat, and it is reckoned to be in every thing else that is eatable, the fruit-fed and milk-fed pork is certainly best. But he adds that if greater firmness be desired it may be had by finishing off the last few weeks of fattening by feeding corn meal, not corn in the ear.

Minnesota and Dakota, with 915,000 people in 1880, and, perhaps, 1,500,000 now, produced more wheat last year than Great Britain and Ireland with 35,000,000 people. The British islands comprise about 121,000 square miles, and devote to wheat growing only 2,400,000 acres, about one acre for 15 inhabitants. Minnesota and Dakota have about 6,000,000 acres of wheat, or about four acres for every inhabitant, and with a good yield could easily sell for export as much as Great Britain and Ireland produce.

OREGON NEWS.

Everything of General Interest in a Condensed Form.

The music of the hammer and saw is heard daily at McMinnville.

The Dalles jail has but one occupant.

Chinese pheasants are very numerous around Airlie.

Wm. Colman, formerly mate on coasting vessels, died at St. Mary's hospital, Astoria.

Mrs. Sarah Wilson, of Scio, was taken to the insane asylum, having been declared insane by a board of medical examiners.

The schooner Wm. F. Witzermann, while trying to sail out, heavily lumber laden, took sand at Smith's point, near Astoria, and is still ashore.

Gov. Penney has appointed Wm. F. Muir, of Portland; O. F. Be'l, of Union; D. W. C. Nelson, of North Powder, and J. M. Brown, of Silverton, notaries public.

At Albany, Claude Vunk, little son of R. B. Vunk, while playing at school was accidentally struck in the face with a ball bat, inflicting very severe injuries.

Miss Ida Turner was very seriously hurt by being thrown from a horse at Sumner, her head striking on a log. The breaking of the saddle cinch was the cause of the accident.

A. Glansen, a painter, of Portland, was arrested for permitting a vicious dog to run at large. His dog bit a little daughter of John Schmidt, who made the complaint against Glansen.

The Blagen Tanning Company has filed articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State. Incorporators, N. J. Blagen, Geo. Medgeley and Wm. J. Miller; location, Eugene City; capital stock, \$6,000.

Mrs. Rosetta Parker was reported to be in a dying condition at the home of her son, near Turner station, Marion county. She was the widow of the late Hon. Samuel Parker, and one of the old pioneers of the State. Her husband died about eighteen months ago.

Messrs. Paquet & Smith, have two large and one small scows and a force of men are raising the sunken steamer *Featley*, below Lincoln. The stern of the boat has been raised and pumped out, and the seam in her bottom temporarily patched. She will be taken to Oregon City and placed in the dry dock for permanent repairs.

A freight train collided with a switch engine on the curve entering Albina. The freight was coming with considerable momentum and the switch was moving slowly. When the engineer of the freight saw the switch he tried to stop his train, but was unable to do so until his engine was on the switch. There was not much damage to either engine, only the wood work being torn off.

Dr. C. W. Jeffrey, veterinary surgeon, was attacked by two footpads on State street, Salem, knocked senseless, and robbed of \$1,475, of which \$300 was money and the remainder drafts. The doctor had just returned from Eastern Oregon, where he had received a large amount of money. He also received several hundred dollars from parties in Portland, and he thinks some toughs saw him there and followed him to Salem on the evening train. There is no clue to the robbers.

Walter Foss, the boy who drives the "hill" horse on the First street car line in Portland, met with a serious accident. His work for the day being finished, he undertook to jump on the front platform of a car in motion, near Jefferson, but he lost his hold and fell to the ground, one foot lying on the rail. The driver applied the brakes, but not before both wheels had passed over the foot. The lad was conveyed to the residence of his father George Foss, corner Front and Clay. It is thought amputation will be necessary.

MISCELLANEOUS.

—A woman never reaches middle life; she is always young until she gets old enough to boast of her age.—*Epoch*.

—The sod houses of farmers in Dakota were found to be much warmer during the recent cold spell than houses made of wood or brick.

—If there is anybody who wants copyright it is the editor. So much copy wrong is what is wearing out his life.—*Boston Post*.

—She—"Excuse me, sir, I did not catch your name." French Visitor—"Octave, Mademoiselle, Octave." She—"In the piano business?"—*Town Topics*.

—The California papers report that on account of vandalism of the American tourists the ancient adobe church at Paso del Norte has been closed to them.

—The cost of compiling and publishing the reports of the Challenger expedition, the last three volumes of which are about to be issued, has already exceeded \$1,000,000.

—In Northern Alaska the sun shines only four hours out of the twenty-four in winter, and the Alaskan ought to be duly thankful. Base ball clubs can only play one game a day.