

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER.

VOL. I.

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NO. 15.

A NEW material called leatherine is an English manufacture. It can be sold at five or six cents per pound, and is said to be as tough as leather, and is designed for packing and bagging.

JACOB HIGGINS, a well-known farmer, hung himself to a tree in the woods, a short distance from his residence, near Hixson Station, Tenn. He had recently lost his wife. He leaves five small children, who have no relatives to care for them.

THE extraction of camphor from the tree totally destroys its growth, and it was owing to this fact that the custom once prevailed in Japan that when a person removes the camphor another tree was immediately planted in the stead of that one from which the gum had been removed.

A PITTSBURG mechanical engineer has invented a novel movable dam, by the use of which he claims a boating stage of water may be obtained in shallow rivers at all seasons of the year. The invention has been examined by old river men and pronounced practicable. The inventor is 82 years old.

EXPERIMENTS have proved that the tensile strength of a wet rope is only one-third that of the same rope when dry, and a rope saturated with grease or soap is weaker still, as the lubricant permits the fibers to slip with greater facility. Hemp rope contracts strongly on being wet, and a dry rope twenty five feet long will shorten to twenty-four on being wet.

It is proposed to preserve fish alive by placing them in vessels filled with water and hermetically sealed. It is said that fish so confined have been found alive after three weeks, without either air or water having been changed, while fish in an open jar died in forty-eight hours. If the air in the vessel is compressed the life of the fish is still further prolonged.

From studies upon the relation of the annual rings bear to the age of trees it has been concluded that they are only an approximate and not certainly correct index of age. Any agency operating to produce alternate periods of rest and activity in the growth of the trees serves to determine their formation. In cold climates the number of rings more nearly serves to indicate the age of the trees than in warm climates.

PAPER bottles are now in extensive use for containing such substances as ink, blueing, shoe dressing, glue, etc. They are made by rolling glued sheets of paper into long cylinders, which are then cut into suitable lengths. Tops and bottoms are fitted in, the inside coated with a water-proof compound, and all this is done by machinery almost as quickly as one can count.

SOME phenomenal fortunes have been made of late years in the Pennsylvania oil fields. That of William Phillips, of Newcastle, for instance, which amounts to \$4,000,000, has all been made since 1879. Vandegriff, of Pittsburg, has taken \$5,000,000 out of the oil fields since 1880, and a dozen men could be mentioned who have made \$1,000,000 or more in the same time.

OF six hundred tornadoes, of which record has been made in the United States, not more than seventy-five were east of the Allegheny Mountains. The warm air tempestuously driven from the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi Valley is caught up by the polar wind and driven in gyratory tornadoes across the prairies. The Appalachian range serves on the Atlantic slope as a barrier against storms of that sort.

A GREAT tunnel has been constructed through the Cascade Mountains for the Northern Pacific Railroad, at a cost of about \$2,000,000. One of the interesting features of its construction was that electric lights were used to illuminate it while work was going on, and that the power was supplied by a mountain stream falling directly over the mouth of the tunnel. There is abundance of such power going to waste all over the country, and more attention should be given to its utilization.

TELEGRAPHIC.

An Epitome of the Principal Events Now Attracting Public Interest.

The Indianapolis Vencer Company's works burned. Loss, \$100,000; insurance \$53,000.

John Muchthaler, a confectioner, killed his wife and himself at Detroit. Domestic troubles was the cause.

Prof. B. G. Roots died at Tamaroa, Ill., in his seventy-eighth year. He had been for years President of the Board of Education of that State.

Charles Cross, the jockey, who was thrown from his horse at the Jerome park race, New York, died from his injuries at Manhattan's hospital.

The hotel at Manitou Park, Colo., burned, with all the contents, caused by a log rolling from the fire place, and setting fire to the house. Loss, \$50,000.

The Atlas paper mill, controlled by Kimberly, Clark & Company, was totally destroyed by fire at Appleton, Wis. Loss, \$150,000; insurance, about \$50,000.

Destructive forest fires are raging on the south shore of Conception bay, N. S. At Little Kaynorth twenty-six families were burned out. One woman and two children were burned to death.

Commandant Herriot, proprietor of the Louvre, and a warm advocate of the Boulanger cause, during a fit of temporary mental aberration, shot his young wife and then shot himself, at Paris, France.

A disastrous fire visited Trinidad, Col. After a hard fight the fire department succeeded in getting control of it, but not until the Commercial hotel, with seven or eight business houses, had been consumed.

Wm. George, a hotel man, died at Spring View, Neb., of the glanders. He contracted the disease while treating a trotting horse which he owned. George suffered great agony for two weeks before his death.

Nineteen persons were poisoned at Kasota, Minn., from eating cheese which was manufactured in Wisconsin. Many of the victims became insensible, after suffering spasms, but a good treatment will recover.

A fire in a tenement house was burned at Lowell, Mass. Eugenia Vallerand, aged 8, and Peter Vallerand, aged 5, perished. Another of the Vallerand family and another occupant named Bisvert, were fatally hurt.

A bottle was picked up on the shore near Locknow, Ont., containing a note stating that the schooner Tiffen, of Bay City, was going down with all on board. There was no date on the note. The vessel has not been heard from for some days.

An atrocious outrage is reported from Fair Chance, Penn. Samuel Humbert, an old resident of Fair Chance, was assaulted by masked men at his residence, who tortured him for two hours to make him disclose the place of his supposed wealth. His feet were toasted in front of a fire, in addition to other indignities.

A cash boy named Andrew Howard, aged 14, has confessed that he started the million dollar fire which destroyed the dry goods store of Barnes, Heneberger & Co., at Buffalo, N. Y. He says he started the fire because he was mad at Starring, a floor walker, who would not excuse him to go to a funeral at which he was to be a pall bearer.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Whiting voluntarily confessed that she had poisoned her two children at Philadelphia, Penn., and had furnished her husband with poison with which, she declares, he took his own life, on account of dependency caused by poverty. Mrs. Whiting poisoned her 9-year-old daughter Bertha, and a boy, Willie, two years old.

Filippo Guastoni, shot Mrs. Louisa Marri, and then blew out his own brains. He was a constant visitor in the Marri household and had for some time made no secret of his love for the woman. He had been warned by the woman's husband not to interfere with the domestic relations of the Marri family. Notwithstanding the warning, he forced himself into Mrs. Marri's bedroom, where the tragedy was committed.

A thrilling accident occurred at the Bundage Whirlpool park elevator at Lockport, N. Y. Four South Americans, accompanied by an interpreter, stepped into the car to descend to the rapids, a descent of 300 feet, at an angle of forty-five degrees, when the car suddenly started, and rushed to the bottom of the incline, where it was dashed into splinters, and its occupants thrown with great force upon the platform. Before they could escape the other car reached the top with such force that it was detached, and came down upon the shocked and bewildered victims of the first car with a tremendous crash. Mrs. Santa had a leg broken and was terribly shaken up and bruised, and her daughter was badly hurt.

COAST CULLINGS.

Devoted Principally to Washington Territory and California.

The project for building a large hotel in Ellensburg, W. T., is one that is much talked of lately.

Some fine nuggets were brought in to Ellensburg, W. T., the past week from the placers of the Swank.

The Olympia (W. T.) board of trade is preparing a circular to advertise the city. It is to be done by private enterprise.

A man with a bullet hole near his heart was found in Columbia square, San Francisco. It is thought the man was murdered, but it is strange no one heard the shots in the neighborhood.

John Walton, a waiter in a restaurant at Los Angeles, Cal., was accidentally shot by the proprietor, James Wilson, while the latter was cleaning a revolver. The ball passed through Walton's abdomen. The wound is probably fatal.

Five young men of San Francisco, whose ages range from 18 to 22, hired a yawl to take a row on the bay. When near Government island the boat capsized and one man, George Flannery, was drowned. The body has not been recovered.

Deputy Sheriff Alverdi, of Cochiz county, Ariz., had a fight with three Sonora train robbers in the Whetstone mountains, sixty miles north of this place. The officers succeeded in killing two and mortally wounding the other one.

Joe Wallace, a young man, met with a fatal accident on freight train No. 13, between Hot Springs and Eagle Gorge, W. T. He fell between the moving cars and was horribly mutilated. He was brought to the Fanny Paddock hospital, where he died.

At the Coyote ranch near Springville, Ariz., a shooting affair occurred between William Magee and Henry Jenkins. The latter was fatally wounded, a Robert Thomas, a looker-on, was shot in the leg, shattering the bone and amputation was necessary. Jenkins lived twenty-four hours. He leaves a wife and three children. Magee was arrested, examined and discharged on a verdict of justifiable homicide.

Bertha Schaeffeld, a girl 10 years of age, residing with her widowed mother in San Francisco, was sitting on a stairway on the street, when the boom of a blast in the vicinity was heard, and a jagged bit of rock came whizzing through the air, striking the child on the head. The unconscious child was conveyed to her home, and medical attendance was summoned. Her skull was found to be fractured, and the physicians state there is no hope for her recovery.

Dr. E. C. Thatcher, a prominent physician of San Diego, Cal., committed suicide at Ramona by piercing his jugular vein with a lancet and bleeding to death. He was commissioned surgeon in the navy by President Johnson in 1865, and served till 1873. He was a native of Pennsylvania. Lately he was addicted to the use of morphine.

James Ahern, a sewer contractor, paraded in the democratic demonstration at San Francisco, and returned home at a late hour. He became ill at about 3 o'clock in the morning and starting for another room mistook an open window for a door and walked through it. A moment later a policeman found him lying on the sidewalk with his skull fractured and covered with blood. He died an hour later. He leaves a widow and five daughters.

Harvey Weiss, one of the best known salesmen traveling out of Chicago, was found dead in Golden Gate Park, in San Francisco, with a bullet hole through his head and a revolver by his side with two chambers empty. Developments proved that it was a case of suicide, and letters found on his person showed the cause was loss from gambling. He wrote pitiful letters to his wife and children. Among his other papers was a contract entered into with his firm, Kuhn, Nathan & Fisher, a prominent clothing firm of Chicago, dated December 1, 1887. It shows that Weiss's salary was \$4,000 a year on condition that he made sales amounting to \$80,000.

A mountain shooting affray occurred at Mount Pleasant, Utah, the sequel to which was a marriage. Andrew Romarro had called on a young lady to whom he had been paying attention, Miss Mortensen. While engaged in a slight scuffle she drew a revolver from his pocket, and, pointing it at him, said in a joking manner, she would shoot him if he did not let her alone. "Look out! it's loaded," said Romarro. Just then Miss Mortensen pulled the trigger when a bullet entered the left side of Romarro's face. Almost wild with frenzy, the girl threw the revolver away and began to run. Romarro, bleeding profusely, fell, but got up and went into the house. A doctor was summoned and the wound dressed. The shooting was done at 7 p. m., and at midnight they were married.

OREGON NEWS.

Everything of General Interest in a Condensed Form.

The crop of Chinese pheasants promises to be enormous in Linn county this year.

O. J. Beardsley was appointed postmaster at Eola, Polk county, Oregon, vice Asa Shain, resigned.

A new postoffice was established at Nashville, Benton county, Oregon, and Jennie C. Curry was appointed postmistress.

Patents have been granted as follows: Oregon—Wilton K. Anderson and Ben H. Smith, Wapinita, sawmill dog.

Gov. Penneyer has appointed Mrs. Parsell, of Alpine, Oregon, a notary public, the first instance of a woman having been appointed to that office in Oregon.

Convict Crump made an attempt at suicide at the Salem penitentiary by jumping from the top bunk in his cell, head first to the stone floor. He was knocked senseless, but recovered.

At Washington, Secretary Vilas has affirmed the decision of the commissioner of the general land office in awarding to Thomas C. Little a tract of land of forty acres in the Lakeview (Oregon) land district.

Dee Matlock shot Al Larkins, at Hepper, the ball entering the side of the neck just above the collar bone, and barely missing a large artery. Larkins has even chances for getting well. Matlock is at large. Larkins was on crutches at the time, having been hurt by a horse.

Gov. Penneyer has received from Alexander Sutton, secretary of the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, a complaint that 600 or pound net fishermen violate the law by fishing during the weekly close season. The governor has referred the matter to the fish commission, with directions to act.

A corpse was discovered floating in the river at the foot of Stark street, Portland. The remains were so swollen that at first it was difficult to identify them, but subsequently they were recognized as being those of John Kennedy, a shoemaker. Mr. Kennedy was an old resident of the city. He was a quiet, peaceful man and a good citizen.

Peter Shannon shot and killed his wife and afterward shot and killed himself. The tragedy occurred at a small boarding house in Portland. It was a most brutal, cold-blooded murder. Shannon was about 60 years old and his wife 65. They had only been married about a year, and Shannon's jealousy is supposed to have been the cause of the crime.

John McIntosh, a young man employed at Gov. Penneyer's sawmill, Portland, met with a serious accident, entailing the loss of his right hand. He was working at a planer and in stepping on the lever to throw the belt off the pulley, he slipped and was pitched forward, his hand striking the planer and being caught under the heavy blades. It was frightfully mangled as far up as the wrist. Mr. McIntosh was taken to his home.

J. F. Parks, a lawyer of Spokane Falls, who has been staying at the St. Charles hotel, Portland, was found in a dying condition in his room. A partially filled box of morphine pills on the stand by his bedside showed what he had taken, and a doctor was at once summoned, but all efforts to restore animation failed, and in a short time he expired. It is supposed that the morphine was taken with suicidal intent.

Three young women were passing the corner of Third and Taylor streets, Portland, a hackman asked them to take a ride. One of them told him to drive around the corner and draw up to the sidewalk. He did so, and alighted to open the door of his hack, when two of the young women seized him, and the other, taking his whip from the socket, proceeded to lay it on over his head and shoulders with great vigor. After receiving a small taste of what he richly deserved, he managed to escape, and jumping on his back drove off, leaving his whip as a trophy in the hands of the young woman.

James H. O'Reilly, a young carpenter in the employ of the O. R. & N. Co., met with a fatal accident at bridge No. 77, about two miles beyond the Cascades. It appears O'Reilly was engaged with some other workmen in making repairs to the bridge, when he fell, sustaining what was regarded as serious injuries. The head office in this city was telegraphed and informed of the accident, and requested to have a surgeon at the depot to attend him when he reached here. All arrangements were made for the injured man by the company, but another dispatch stated that O'Reilly had died on board the train just before reaching Bonneville.

Miss N. Hayworth, a young lady 20 years old, was fatally burned while setting fire to trash in her yard, at her home near Galveston, Ind. She was soon to have been married.

MARKET REPORT.

Reliable Quotations Carefully Revised Every Week.

WHEAT—Valley, \$1 25@1 26 Walla Walla, \$1 17 1/2@1 18 1/2.

BARLEY—W hole, \$1 10@1 12 1/2; ground, per ton, \$25 00@27 50.

OATS—Milling, 42 1/2@45c.; feed, 44 @45c.

HAY—Baled, \$15 00@17 00.

SEED—Blue Grass, 14 1/2@16c.; Timothy, 9 1/2@10c.; Red Clover, 14@15c.

FLOUR—Patent Roller, \$4 00; Country Brand, \$3 75.

EGGS—Per doz., 20c.

BUTTER—Fancy roll, per pound, 50c.; pickled, 15 1/2@20c.; inferior grade, 15@22c.

CHEESE—Eastern, 16@20c.; Oregon, 14@16c.; California, 14 1/2c.

VEGETABLES—Lettuce, per sack, \$1 50; cabbage, per lb., 2 1/2c.; carrots, per sk., \$1 25; lettuce, per doz., 20c.; onions, \$1 50; potatoes, per 100 lbs., 50@75c.; radishes, per doz., 15@20c.; rhubarb, per lb., 6c.

HONEY—In comb, per lb., 18c.; strained, 5 gal. tins, per lb., 8 1/2c.

POULTRY—Chickens, per doz., \$5 50@6 00; ducks, per doz., \$5 00@6 00; geese, \$6 00@8 00; turkeys, per lb., 16@18c.

PROVISIONS—Oregon hams, 13 1/2c per lb.; Eastern, 13@13 1/2c.; Eastern breakfast bacon, 12c. per lb.; Oregon 12@13c.; Eastern lard, 10@11 1/2c. per lb.; Oregon, 10 1/2c.

GREEN FRUITS—Apples, \$2 00 @2 50; Sicily lemons, \$5 00@5 50; California, \$3 50@5 00; Naval oranges \$5 75; Riverside, \$4 00; Mediterranean, \$4 25.

DRIED FRUITS—Sun dried apples, 7 1/2c. per lb.; machine dried, 10@11c.; pitless plums, 13c.; Italian prunes, 10@14c.; peaches, 12 1/2@14c.; raisins, \$2 25@2 50.

WOOL—Valley, 14@15c.; Eastern Oregon, 12@14c.

HIDES—Dry beef hides, 8@10c.; culls, 6@7c.; kip and calf, 8@10c.; Murrain, 10@12c.; tallow, 3@3 1/2c.

LUMBER—Rough, per M, \$10 00; edged, per M, \$12 00; T. and G. sheathing, per M, \$13 00; No. 2 flooring, per M, \$18 00; No. 2 ceiling, per M, \$18 00; No. 2 rustic, per M, \$18 00; clear rough, per M, \$20 00; clear P. 4 S, per M, \$22 50; No. 1 flooring, per M, \$22 50; No. 1 ceiling, per M, \$22 50; No. 1 rustic, per M, \$22 50; stepping, per M, \$25 00; over 12 inches wide, extra, \$1 00; lengths 40 to 50, extra, \$2 00; lengths 50 to 60, extra, \$4 00; 1 1/2" lath, per M, \$2 25; 1 1/2" lath, per M, \$2 50.

MEAT—Beef, wholesale, 3@3 1/2c.; dressed, 7c.; sheep, 3 1/2c.; dressed, 6c.; hogs, dressed, 7@7 1/2c.; veal, 7@8c.

BEANS—Quote small whites, \$2 50; pinks, \$2; bayos, \$2; butter, \$2 50; Lima, \$3 00 per cental.

COFFEE—Quote Salvador, 16c.; Costa Rica, 18@20c.; Rio, 18@20c.; Java, 25c.; Arbuckle's roasted, 22c.

SALT—Liverpool grades of fine quoted \$18, \$19 and \$20 for the three sizes; stock salt, \$10.

PICKLES—Kegs quoted steady at \$1 35.

SUGAR—Prices for barrels; Golden C, 5 1/2c.; extra C, 6 1/2c.; dry granulated, 6 1/2c.; crushed, fine crushed, cube and powdered, 7c.; extra C, 5 1/2c.; halves and boxes, 1c. higher.

PITH AND POINT.

—Some people are so sensitive that they seem to have corns all over them.

—The wise man is the man who knows what to do when the time comes.

—People don't get famous in a hurry, and it takes a deal of work even to earn your bread and butter.

—"Will the coming man use both arms?" asks a scientist. He will if his girl knows how to drive.—Omaha World.

—There is a fortune waiting for the man who will invent a humane method of starting a balky horse.

—Judging from effects, the kind of oil most extensively used for pouring on troubled waters is turmoil.—N. Y. Sun.

—Money is not nearly so valuable as character, for money can not buy the respect of thoughtful men and women.

—True politeness is perfect ease and freedom. It simply consists in treating others as you like to be treated yourself.—Lord Chesterfield.

—The louder the whines of complaint, the less need for sympathy. Intense emotions never express themselves in noise.

—Be not offended at a jest. If one throw salt at thee, thou wilt receive no harm unless thou hast sore places.—Old Proverb.

—It is only another illustration of the law of compensation that women advanced in views are apt to be behind in the fashions.

AGRICULTURAL.

Devoted to the Interests of Farmers and Stockmen.

Sore Teats, or Garget.

A correspondent of Hoard's Dairyman gives a cure of his own for this troublesome complaint. He says: At first one teat will milk harder than the rest, and gets worse until scarce a drop can be got from it. The quarter of the bag it represents is hard and swollen. He lets the teat thus affected alone for four days, rubbing on linseed oil twice a day, giving the cow five drops of acetic acid on an ear of corn, night and morning, and not giving the cow a full grain ration during this time. He milks on the fifth day, and generally has no trouble. If it begins to milk hard again give another rest, and there is no trouble afterwards. This is a simple way of treating a troublesome complaint, and at this time of the year there may be many persons who will be glad to know how to treat it.

Large quantities of butter are exported from Russia. The amount exported in 1886 was 4,306 tons, as against 3,315 tons in 1880.

A farmer's wife tells the Farm and Home that if butter-makers will put their cream through a thin linen bag just before churning it, they will not be bothered with white specks in the butter.

An avenue of well-grown trees by the roadside makes a farm vastly more attractive and costs little except the labor of setting. On high ground the sugar maple thus set will make a sugar grove after a few years. On low lands the elm is the handsome tree, but its roots extend far into the fields.

Potatoes ought to be planted at least three to four inches deep, and if covered thus deeply they will be some time in coming up. Weeds are quite sure to get the start unless the surface is harrowed once or twice before the potato crop is out of the ground. It really does not hurt the potato to continue the harrowing still longer.

There is a greater demand for evergreen corn than for any other. It is large, and, therefore, preferred for canning. It is very large and sweet, and, therefore, is demand for soil and ensilage. Being late and large, it is difficult to cure the seed without fire heat, which should always be given, to have it safe from freezing when cold weather comes.

A man's character can be judged pretty well by seeing him among his cows. If I wanted to buy a cow and was shown one that the owner raised, and she kept out of reach when he tried to put his hand on her, I would reject her for no other reason. I should be afraid either he had bred all the good disposition out of her, or that she had lost any she was born with by associating with him.

The orchardist is largely dependent on the weather. On one point he is nearly, if not quite, helpless. If dry weather enough does not come while his trees are blossoming for the pollen to diffuse itself, the fruit will not set. Part of this work is doubtless dependent upon bees, which do not fly during heavy cold rains. More than once we have seen abundant blossoming followed by heavy rains which wash away the pollen and left only a very poor set of fruit.

Mulching consists in the application of old straw or something of the sort on the surface around the tree, for three or four feet on each side, and to the depth of ten or twelve inches. This retains the moisture for the benefit of the tree, instead of allowing it to evaporate; and if the season be dry it will save the life of the tree, while if it happens to be wet no injury will take place. Newly planted trees often live without mulching, but the danger is great, and the hot, dry summer frequently proves fatal; so that the careful planter will not run the risk of neglecting it.

It is quite right to color butter with annatto, observes Prof. Stewart. It has no effect upon the real quality of the butter, except to give it an appetizing color. Butter is one of the foods that we taste through our eyes. If it has a delicate golden color the imagination can easily give it the aroma and flavor of the sweetest grass butter. If it be too white, as winter butter must be, without coloring, it is imagined to be largely composed of lard. Coloring adds much to the pleasure of eating it, and therefore to its digestibility.

In a report on entomology recently made to the Columbus (O.) Horticultural Society Mr. B. W. Allwood states that many remedies were employed on cabbage worms. None proved of any value except tobacco soaps and pyrethrum. The tobacco soaps prepared with potash were quite efficient, the value of which was ascribed to the potash. Pyrethrum is recommended as the best remedy, being perfectly safe, easy of application and more deadly on the worms than any other remedy used. Powder of good quality mixed with three times its bulk of flour, was found perfectly effective, applied with a dusting bellows.