

# POLK COUNTY OBSERVER.

VOL. I.

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NO. 16.

A low estimate puts the number of persons supported by all the forms of employment furnished by electricity at 5,000,000.

There are forty-three log school houses in Iowa. This is the number given in the report of the State Superintendent for 1887.

Venus, the morning star, is brighter than it ever appeared to any man now living, and nearer the earth than it will be again for 340 years.

One hundred and twenty bull fights were given in the City of Mexico during the past year. Seventeen bull fighters were wounded, and one professional and two amateur fighters killed.

In Mexico it is the custom to address ladies by their given names, even when they are almost strangers. Neglect to comply with this custom give offence to many women.

It has been calculated according to Professor Proctor, that a man of 70 has consumed twenty wagon loads, or eighty tons, of food, solid and liquid.

An elephant has been sent by Lord Dufferin to the Shah of Persia as a gift. It is a very fine one, gorgeously caparisoned and attended by thirty attendants.

A patchwork quilt made by children in the United States, and an Indian shawl, the gift of Queen Victoria, were buried with Jenny Lind at her recent death.

A certain Philadelphia family seems to be of very fragile material. There are 10 persons in it, and they have experienced 32 fractures of bones during the past 10 years.

Two Protestant citizens of Madrid were lately condemned to six months' imprisonment for refusing to contribute to the national fund.

Miss Eliza Wilcox is the only person born in the White House. She was the only daughter of President Jackson's adopted son, and was born in the presidential mansion during the administration of "Old Hickory."

The infant daughter of Prince Berice and Prince Henry of Saxe-Coburg was christened with water from the Jordan river, a bottle having been secured for that purpose by Rev. C. M. Owen, of Birmingham.

The Captain of the British ship City of Madrid, which arrived lately at San Francisco, reported that when off the Patagonian coast, during strong westerly winds, butterflies were blown aboard the vessel at a distance of 150 miles from land.

There is a man in the Kansas penitentiary who, beginning with a term at Sing Sing years ago, has served his time in regular succession in the penitentiaries of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Kansas.

Mrs. Hetty Greene, the richest woman in America, was born in Nantucket, Mass., and her father was a sea captain. She is a queer character and has been more written about than almost any other woman in America. She is worth \$40,000,000.

There is a curious law in vogue in Switzerland which compels every newly-married couple to plant trees shortly after the ceremony. The trees ordered to be planted on wedding days are the pine and weeping willow. On natal days the suggestive birch tree is selected.

A year ago Miss Clara Moore, of Cincinnati, went to visit friends in Los Angeles, Cal. She had a few hundred dollars with her, which she invested in Southern California lands, and in the boom that followed she sold out her property at a net gain of \$125,000.

Mrs. Cleveland has been studying French, under the tutelage of a French woman who lives near the Executive Mansion, and has made such good progress that she can now, it is stated, read and write quite fluently in the "court" language, and thus prove charming in an additional tongue.

## TELEGRAPHIC.

Epitome of the Principal Events Now Attracting Public Interest.

Three men laying gas-pipes in Thirty-second street, New York, were killed by the caving in of a bank.

Three cases of sun-stroke and numerous prostrations have occurred in New York city and Brooklyn, owing to intense heat.

A man named Glass, residing at Glassgo, Pa., killed his son-in-law and mortally wounded himself. Domestic trouble was the cause.

Details of sales on the coast of Iceland last month show that 400 French fishermen were drowned and thirty vessels wrecked.

At San Diego, in the State of New Mexico, a railroad train plunged through a bridge, two Americans were killed. The accident was due to washing out the foundation of the bridge.

A thunder storm accompanied by hail passed over Princeton, N. J. The house of Harrison Voorhees was struck by lightning, and both he and his wife were instantly killed.

John McCulloch, a broom maker, of disipated habits, shot and fatally wounded his wife, and killed himself at St. Louis. The woman had left him because of his conduct.

An alarming rebellion has broken out among the people made destitute by floods in Hanon and Han-Tung, China. It is reported that the troops have joined the rebels and murdered government officials.

During a severe storm at Manitowish, Wis., a brick school house in Osgood township was blown down, and twenty children were buried in the ruins. Some of them were fatally wounded, and none escaped painful injuries.

C. H. Hemstead, while engaged in a game of baseball at Oakland, Neb., was struck in the stomach by the knee of a baserunner and fatally injured. He was an employee of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railroad.

A loose engine while backing around a curve at Boaz, Ky., ran over the children of Mrs. Helen Harper, who were lying asleep on the track. The eldest child escaped uninjured, but the youngest, aged four years, had its arm and leg broken and skull fractured, from the effects of which it died.

Geo. Rickard, a miner well known in Nevada, and lately from Eureka, was drowned in Wood river, Idaho. A wagon loaded with miners was coming to town, and while fording the river the wagon was overturned. The other men got a narrow escape. The body of Rickard has not been found.

For a period of twenty years there has been carried on a systematic plan of embargoing goods from one of the largest producing concerns in Boston, and a thorough investigation by detectives is now in progress, which threatens to result in the arrest of many of its oldest employees. The lowest estimate of the value of the goods stolen is \$100,000.

Mrs. Josephine Mack, of Allegheny City, Pa., salted strichnine to her three children, aged 7, 3 and 4, and then swallowed poison herself. In less than three hours the mother and children were dead. The motive for the deed is supposed to be anger because her husband had ordered his brother from the house, whom he suspected of criminal intimacy with his wife.

Sergeant Nolan and Private Taylor of Fort Madison, Neb., got into a quarrel over a woman named Carrie Reed, during which both drew revolvers and began firing. Nolan was fatally wounded and died shortly after. The woman was also shot and is in a critical condition. Taylor gave himself up, claiming that he acted in self-defense, but a coroner's jury decided that he shot with felonious intent.

A devil-fish, or ocean vampire, was accidentally caught near Vampico, Mexico, in a fishing-seine recently. Ropes were thrown around the monster, and by the aid of horses it was drawn to the shore. It weighed two tons and when spread out on the beach dead presented every appearance of an enormous vat or vampire. It measured fifteen feet wide from the edge of the pectoral fins, and its mouth was five feet across.

A collision occurred on the Cheyenne & Northern branch of the Union Pacific, near Bordeaux, Wyo., between a work train and a passenger engine, which resulted in the death of Passenger Conductor Hader, Fireman Egan and brakeman Mayfield, and the probably fatal injury of Engineers Brooks and Marsden, and the serious injury of four other employes. A washout occasioned sending out the work train. On the arrival of the north-bound passenger train at Bordeaux, the conductor run with the empty engine to the scene of the washout to learn the situation. While making the run the collision occurred with the work train, which was running to Bordeaux at full speed.

## AGRICULTURAL.

Devoted to the Interests of Farmers and Stockmen.

Too much corn or cornmeal causes chicken cholera.

Linsed meal should not be fed to very young pigs except in small quantities, and not very often, as it is too much of a laxative for them.

To prevent the formation of long tap roots and get a large number of small roots on plants raised in boxes use a shallow seed-bed not over two inches of loam in the boxes. This dries out quickly, and care should be taken to keep it moist.

There is more gain, in proportion to its feed, during the first year of any animal's life than there is any time after. Acting on this hint, calves predestined for the butcher including all grade males, may be well fed until they are a year old, and then turned off for beef. If killed then early, the males should not be castrated.

The utility of windmills on the farm is now very generally recognized and they are seen dotting hundreds of farms where five years ago none were to be found. A Western farmer writes that with his windmill he grinds all kinds of feed, makes a good article of corn-meal and graham flour, shells corn, runs a feed-cutter and a 29-inch wood saw.

When the farmers are advised to give warm water to stock, it should also be understood that if above bird heat it should have fed of some kind stirred in it to make it palatable; bran or corn meal will do. If given to them clear it should be for the best results, only a little warmer than spring water, the icy chill entirely removed.

It certainly does not pay to keep a lot of sheep and then let them take care of themselves. The small amount of wool secured, as well as the poor quality, is such that no margin of profit will be left to the farmer over and above the cost. Even with poor sheep a much better growth of wool can be secured if they be reasonably well cared for than if they be left to themselves.

The very best time to believe to make plant cuttings of grape-vine canes is just as soon as frost destroys the leaves. Make the top cutting leaving an inch of wood beyond each. Plant them at an angle of 80 deg. in mellow soil, a foot apart. Firm the soil, especially about the lower joints; and then cover three inches deep after the first freeze with straw or litter.

Ten tons of superior Texas cottonseed Overy shipped from Galveston, Tex., consigned to the German West African Colonization Society, Zanzibar, Africa. An experienced planter accompanied the seed for the purpose of instructing the natives of Zanzibar in the cultivation of the cotton plant. This event marks the introduction of cotton on the east coast of Africa.

A method for protecting trees against rabbits and ground mice, practiced by Missouri farmers and endorsed by the Missouri State Horticultural Society, consists in covering the trunk of the tree around with wire cloth. If this be inserted an inch or two into the ground, it is claimed that it proves an equal protection to ground mice, which often girdle trees at and below the surface during the winter.

Experiments in pig feeding, instituted under the Danish Agricultural Society, go to show that skimmed milk has double the feeding value of buttermilk; that rye and barley are of about equal value, with a slight percentage in favor of rye, and that six pounds of skimmed milk have the same feeding value as one pound of rye or barley, and twelve pounds of buttermilk are required to obtain the same result of feeding value.

There is no popular craze just now for growing sunflowers. It is quite as well, since the old-fashioned reasons for planting them are as strong as they ever were. They made excellent winter food for hens, and if protected while young, the sunflower will rapidly tower up and make a splendid shade for them in hot weather, in the yard where fowls run. The plant is a gross feeder, and even the henyard is scarcely too rich for it.

Twenty years ago the value of fruit imported to Great Britain was given at about \$15,000,000 from all points. Now it has increased to \$37,000,000. Of the apples from North America, one-third reach British ports from Canada. Judging by the quantity shipped, the yellow Bellefleur must be immensely grown for American export, while the Baldwin also reaches Britain in immense numbers. The Newtown Pippin brings the highest price.

The old-fashioned open ditch is in our climate an expensive nuisance. Every spring it is partly filled with sediment, leaves of trees and soil washed down from its banks. There is, beside, a waste of time in plowing, cultivating, and every other teamwork in a field thus divided. The sooner the open ditch is made into an under-drain the better it will be for the farmer's purse. It may cost at first, but it will pay every way.

## 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—Whole, \$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@16 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, 25c.

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—Beets, per sack, \$1 50; cabbage, per lb, 2 1/2c; carrots, per sk, \$1 25; lettuce, per doz, 20c; onions, \$1 00; potatoes, per 100 lbs, 90c@95c; 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, 12 1/2c per lb; Oregon 12@13c; Eastern lard, 10@11 1/2c per lb; Oregon, 10 1/2c.

GREEN FRUITS—Apples, \$2 00@2 50; Stieley lemons, \$6 00@6 50; California, \$3 50@5 00; Naval oranges \$6 00; 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, 12@16c; Eastern Oregon, 17@18c.

HIDES—Dry beef hides, 8@10c; culls, 6@7c; kip and calf, 8@9c; Murrain, 10@12c; tallow, 3@3 1/2c.

LUCKER—Sough, per M, \$2 00; edged, per M, \$12 00; T. and G. sheathing, per M, \$13 00; No. 2 flooring, 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 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, \$1 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 25; pinks, \$2 1/2; bayos, \$2; butter, \$2 50; Limas, \$3 00 per cental.

COFFEE—Quote Salvador, 16c; Costa Rica, 18@20c; Rio, 16@20c; Java, 25c; Arbuckle's roasted, 21 1/2c.

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

PICKLES—Kegs quoted steady at \$1 35.

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

SILLY LITTLE THINGS. Why Trifles Should Never Be Made the Cause of a Quarrel.

What absurd little things people quarrel about! What trivial matters cause ill-feeling in families! The muton being roasted too little or the beef too much; an opinion about the temperature of the house or the style of curtains that ought to be bought for the front windows; the definition of a word or its pronunciation, are things that might be argued pleasantly about, but surely are not topics worth a quarrel when peace and good will are of so much importance in the home. A little ill-feeling is like a seed that may grow into a large tree which will shadow the whole house. Many a man and woman must look back with regret on the hasty word or the cold reproach which was the entering wedge that split a household in two, and yet how few make a point of uttering the soft word that turneth away wrath! Quarrelling is one of the original sins, I suppose, for the babies sitting on the floor will fall out over their toys, and one will push down the block tower that the other has built with great pains; and there will be a "name called" and a "face made" and a slap given, and mamma will be called to settle a quarrel, and no truth can be got at, for each is right in his own estimation, and each has been wronged by the other. So it is through life. A reasonable quarrel about great matters may be settled, and the parties made friends again; but little trifles about nothing are such foolish, intangible affairs, that reason can not overcome them.

## COAST CULLINGS.

Devoted Principally to Washington Territory and California.

Walla Walla, W. T., will have electric lights in a few weeks.

A brakeman named A. A. Martin was crushed to death by a Santa Fe train near San Anita, Cal.

The 13-year-old boy of W. K. White was run over by the cars at Gold Run, Cal. One leg was cut off and the other badly broken. He will die.

Peter Whitmore, the 19 year-old son of Captain Whitmore, fell from the top-mast of a vessel at Los Angeles, Cal., and was instantly killed.

M. Bow, a wealthy farmer living near Kent, W. T., was caught under a falling tree and crushed to death. He was 70 years old and well known.

William Higgins, aged 22 years, was run over and fatally injured at Lathrop, Cal., by walking off the end of a car while the train was in motion.

At Oceanide, Cal., Frank Martin, a freight conductor, slipped from a brakebeam while making up a train and several cars passed over his legs. He died in a few moments.

E. C. Allison was shot at San Mateo, Cal., by a shoemaker, who asserts that Allison entered his shop and attacked him first with a stick. Allison says he struck the cobbler after he was shot. The wounded man is not dangerously hurt.

The body of O. H. Peterson was found on a bank of the Russian river near Cloverdale, Cal., with a gash in his left wrist severing the artery. He had died only a short time previous. On his right wrist was a similar cut which was almost healed.

A boy 18 years old was killed at Dixon, Cal., while attempting to board a freight train bound for Sacramento. No one here knows him, but Louis Carson says that he called himself "Dutchy" and that his mother is a widow and lives on Thirteenth street between G and H, Sacramento.

A shocking attempt at murder was made at the farmhouse of E. W. Craig, two miles north of Stockton, Cal. Andy Hochlich, a farm laborer, entered the bedroom of the two Craig girls, with the intention of killing Julia, aged 18. He entered the room, struck a match, and at once attacked Julia, cutting her throat from ear to ear.

L. J. Hudson, a well-known florist of Sumner, Pierce county, W. T., was accidentally killed while on a prospecting tour, near the foot of the glaciers of Mt. Tacoma. A revolver fell out of his pocket and was discharged, the bullet passing through his neck. His companions buried him forty miles from any settlement.

Louis Riva was found murdered at Guerneville, near Santa Rosa, Cal., in a cabin. A few days before a woman who went to see him on business, discovered that he was lying a few feet from the door, dead. He had shortly returned from a hunt, and had his powder-horn on when found. The bullet entered his body near the hip and ranged upward. Suspicion points strongly to a well-known man.

Miss Nettie McClanehan, who is only 13 years old, escorted by a man of about 40, named Henry Nelson, eloped from Chico, Cal. The pair were taken to the police station, where Nelson was discharged on his own recognition to appear when wanted. The girl is detained, pending instructions from her family. Nelson told the officers that he and the girl were on their way to Mexico, where they would have been married.

Savage, Son & Co., proprietor of the Empire foundry, one of the oldest foundries on the coast, made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors at San Francisco to James H. Graham, chief clerk. The liabilities are from \$75,000 to \$90,000. The assets are estimated at \$150,000. The failure is reported to be due to under-bidding on the part of the firm. About 100 men are thrown out of employment.

Frank Sparks, of San Jose, Cal., a man about 45 years of age, wishing to avoid the noise made by democrats who were ratifying in his vicinity, took a walk toward Normal school. He entered the square and had gone a short distance when three men rushed up behind him and knocked him senseless with a sandbag. When he regained consciousness he made the discovery that \$200 he had in his pocket was gone. There is no clue to the identity of the robbers.

Jesus Errada was arrested at the old town of Temecula, Cal., charged with stealing a mare and a colt in San Bernardino county. The officer started overland with the prisoner. On the way the prisoner got slightly in the lead of the officer, and whipped up his horse at full speed, thinking he would escape. His horse stumbled and fell, throwing him from the saddle with one foot hanging in the saddle. He was dragged some distance and fearfully mangled, dying shortly from his injuries.

## OREGON NEWS.

Everything of General Interest in a Condensed Form.

The postoffice at Astor, Morrow county, Oregon, has been discontinued.

The machinery for the new roller mills at Milton is on the ground.

Charles Ganon, aged 8, of Pendleton, fell from stilts and broke his left arm.

W. B. Cunningham killed a lynx near Heppner. He measured 3 feet 4 inches from tip of nose to tip of tail.

John Corkish, of the Puget Sound Pipe Company has been awarded a contract for the construction of water works at Milton, Umatilla county.

Roland McPherson has been appointed postmaster at Mountain Dale, Washington county, Oregon, vice Nathan A. Barret, resigned.

Representative Hermann has secured an extension of mail service to Looking Glass from Oakland, in Douglas county, Oregon.

Charlie, 13-year-old son of L. S. Winters, a cooperman, fell off the trestle work near the Salem Mills and broke his right leg.

An increase of mail service has been ordered from six to seven trips a week from Linkville to Lakeview, Oregon.

The following patent has been granted: Joseph Leole, Dalles, and John Hacton, Portland; shawl strap and fire escape.

A salmon was hauled up on the Cutting Packing Company's dock that weighed seventy-four pounds. A. Booth, of Chicago, sent it on ice to Chicago.

Wm. O'Neil, of Pendleton, was tried, convicted and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary for the crime of mayhem on the person of John Brassfield.

Johnny Lonon, of Pendleton, while blowing a fire-cracker to see if it had gone out, had his face dreadfully burned by the explosion that followed. His eyes were not much injured.

While a woodchopper at Meacham, named Henry Winterm, was lying in his tent a tree about ten inches in diameter was blown down across his body at the hips, injuring him severely. He was taken to La Grande for medical treatment.

A man named Cummins, of Corvallis, while in a somnambulistic state the other night, walked out of a room on the second floor of the Murray hotel and fell out of a door to the ground, eighteen feet below. He escaped with only slight injuries.

The Alaska Gold Company, the Oregon Bituminous Rock Company, and the Pacific Iron works have filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state; also the Masonic Building Association; incorporators, George F. Simson, George W. Maston, Chas. E. Wolverton; capital stock, \$8,000; location, Albany.

Frank Marshall, Poe Ross and Dode Savage became involved in a row in North Salem, in which Savage was knocked down by Marshall, and in falling his leg was broken. Marshall also broke the nose of Ross with his fist. Marshall was arrested but was discharged, no one appearing against him.

Arthur Burton, a mulatto, was arrested at Brownsville for the rape of Miss Eliza Harrington, and was lodged in jail, having been bound over by Justice Avery of Brownsville. His victim who is aged about 16, states that her ravisher entered her bedroom and administered chloroform and outraged her, leaving her unconscious. Much indignation is expressed at Brownsville, and Burton only escaped being lynched by the strenuous exertions of his guard.

John McDonald, known as "Van-conver Jack," met with what might have proved a fatal accident. He rooms at a lodging house on Fifth and Washington streets, Portland, and was sitting near a rear window skylarking with some young men in the court below. In attempting to throw a basin of water on them he lost his balance and fell out of the window on a fence below, a distance of about twenty feet. A superficial examination showed that no bones were broken, but he was pretty badly shaken up, and may be internally hurt.

Word comes from Sand Island of the drowning of two men, Charles Gustinson and Alfred Blank, boat-puller, fishing for the Astoria Packing Company. The men had their boat anchored off the Great Republic spit. At the turn of the tide the water always gets rough. The waves rolling in, the men concluded to leave the boat and swim ashore. Both were overwhelmed and drowned. The boat was recovered and brought to the cannery. Gustinson was a fine young man aged 23, and is deeply regretted. The boat-puller was a stranger in the country.

August Michaelson and Hans Tidge were drowned on the Loup river, Neb. Michaelson wishing to frighten Tidge, who could not swim, tipped the boat until it finally capsized. In trying to save Tidge the latter clung to Michaelson, and both were drowned.