

# POLK COUNTY OBSERVER.

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## ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Japan has a twelve-year-old girl whose feet measure 15 inches in length and her height is eight feet, and she weighs 270 pounds.

A North Carolina girl married two husbands within a week. Now both men are suing for a divorce, and she flouts that two husbands are better than none.

Another horse has been fitted with spectacles. It belongs to Erie, and the restoration of its ability to see distinctly is said to have increased the animal's value more than \$100.

A deed for a piece of land in Windsor, Conn., has recently come to light which is made valuable and interesting by the fact that it bears the name of Matthew Grant, the first American ancestor of General Grant. Its date is April 9, 1861.

Mrs. Robert Milligan, of Bridgeport, W. Va., gave birth to her twenty-fifth child Thursday. The mother is forty-eight years old, and was married at the age of fourteen. Her children—twenty-one of whom are living—include five sets of twins.

There are twenty-two crematories in Europe, of which ten have been built within the past year. There have been six hundred incinerations in Germany, and eight hundred in Italy. There are seven crematories in the United States and six in process of construction.

T. H. Stewart, of Smyrna, Ga., owns a cat with three kittens. A young rabbit was given her to eat recently, but instead she adopted it and is rearing it as carefully as if it had been one of her kittens.

In Japan theatrical audiences are said to show their appreciation of the actors by throwing pieces of clothing—hats, coats, sashes, etc.—on the stage. At the close of the play they redeem these articles at fixed prices, the proceeds going to the fortunate actor.

It is not an uncommon thing for immigrants to land at Castle Garden with families of nine or ten children, and recently a husband and wife, with thirty-two children, disembarked here. It is only fair, however, to mention the fact that the woman was the man's third wife.

Miss Minnie Freeman, the Nebraska school teacher whom the blizzard made famous, has decided to make California her home for the future. She has received \$2,700 cash from the subscription raised for her benefit, besides two costly gold watches, three diamond pins and many pieces of jewelry.

Two men were attacked in a sledge on the slopes of the Haterger Mountains, Pennsylvania, recently. They threw away all the wraps they could spare, while the wolves tore at their rugs and tended to the nearest village. The wolves have been watched for, but have not again been seen.

There was an Ohio man in America, Ga., a few days ago looking around who, it is said, walked the entire distance between the two sections a few weeks since. That he only walked the "fun of the thing" is proved by the fact that immediately upon his arrival there he deposited \$7,000 in the banks for safe-keeping. He was the entire amount out when the fire broke to walk again overcame him, and left for other fields.

A convention of parrots will soon be held in Turin, and a great many named old fellows are expected to be present. Prizes will be given to the best singer, the brightest conversationist, and the finest orator. A great many queer stories have been told about parrots, but the coming show will give the world a chance to know precisely what they have to say.

A Paris costermonger quarreled with his mother, and to get square he dug himself from a nail on the wall. He pulled his hat down over his eyes and held his pipe in his mouth, so that she would think that he was shamming until she went up to him, and so would be scared at finding him dead. His scheme worked perfectly, and the mother nearly had

## PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

### SUICIDE OF A POOR WOMAN

**A Man Loses His No-e. Outrage in Arizona. A Man Shoots His Brother.**

### A MEXICAN MAIL STEAMER LINE

#### Repentant Employer.

E. Lambson, a blacksmith of Seattle, W. T., was arrested on complaint of an employe named O. Vitlum, whom he had struck on the hand with a hammer, dislocating his thumb. He paid a fine of \$25 and manifested sincere repentance by offering the injured man two weeks' pay and to foot all necessary doctor bills.

#### Lumber Mill Burned.

A large lumber mill owned by W. P. Dougherty & Co., five miles above Boulder creek, Cal., was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$50,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

#### Lost the End of His Nose.

Walter Dunleavy, a longshoreman at San Francisco, had a quarrel with a negro, who sprang at him and bit a piece off the end of his nose, at which he made his escape taking the piece bitten off with him.

#### The Work of Footpads.

An Italian laborer, Angelo Arughiva, going to his cabin at Truckee, Cal., was waylaid by two men, knocked down and robbed of \$500 and watch and chain.

#### Outrage in Arizona.

Scott and Jeff Wilson was murdered at Holbrook, Ariz., by outlaws. The affair grew out of the recent war in Tonto basin between sheep and cattle raisers. Warrants were issued and arrests made by unauthorized persons and the prisoners were taken across the mountains into Yavapai county, where they were met by a prearranged mob of outlaws and hanged.

#### An Army of Tramps.

The streets and drives of Sacto, Cal., are now full of the worst looking tramps that have ever been seen here. Every train from the south comes in with every brakebeam bending under the weight of deadbeats.

#### Burglars Foiled by a Woman.

Burglars attempted to break into the residence of John Allen at San Francisco. They broke open the window of a servant girl's room. She fired three shots with a revolver, striking one of the men. The latter returned the fire and the woman was stuck in the thigh. The burglars escaped.

#### Fatal Accident.

Miss Annie Webster and Miss Annie Owens, while going to a funeral at Goodyear Bar, Cal., with a single horse and buggy, were thrown over a grade, falling about sixty feet almost perpendicularly into the river. Miss Webster had her skull broken so that her brains oozed out.

#### Waylaid and Killed.

Stephen J. Tray, alias John Summers, was arrested at San Francisco in an intoxicated condition, and died soon after. An autopsy showed that Tray's skull was fractured, and later it was learned he had been waylaid by a half-dozen robbers, who had beaten him on the skull.

#### Shot His Brother.

Two boys living at Elsinore, Cal., named Alfred and Cole Dyle, were out hunting rabbits, and on their return home Cole, who was in front of his brother, carrying his gun over his shoulder, with one hammer at full cock, slipped into a hole in the road, which jarred him and discharged the gun full into his brother's face.

#### Two Villains Foiled.

The family of John A. Standing at Middle Orange Orchard, Cal., all in the East and the house is in the care of Sarah Gray and J. P. Root. The latter sleeps in the tank house. Two men cut the blind and pushed in the screen to the window in the girl's room. She awoke, and taking a revolver fired three shots. A fourth shot struck one of the men, who screamed, and both left.

#### Burned to Death in a Barn.

A barn belonging to Mrs. Spillman burned at Sacto, Cal., and the charred

remains of a man were found in the ruins. Under the body was a quantity of gold and silver melted in a mass. It is believed the remains are those of a farm hand known as "Shorty" Rock.

#### Bold Thieves.

At San Francisco, Cal., five thieves entered the residence of Mrs. Padoy, during her absence, and ransacked the house, stealing a diamond necklace worth 20,000 francs, two solitaire diamond rings, diamond ear-rings, brooch and a large amount of solid silver plate. The total value of the loss is \$20,000. Some boys saw the men coming out of the house and gave an alarm, but the men escaped.

#### Mexican Steamer Line.

Thomas A. Valdespino Figueroa, resident consul for Mexico, has received official notice that a contract had been signed between the department of the interior and Joaquin Redo for the establishment of a line of Mexican mail steamers between Guaymas and San Francisco, touching at San Diego, Ensenada and way points. Mr. Redo agrees within six months to put on two steamers. The concession he will receive is a subvention of \$2,700 for each round trip. To be paid by the assignment of 50 per cent. of the import and export duties placed on the merchandise received on the steamers of this line. The first steamer to make the trip will be the Alexander.

#### California Fire.

A terrific fire has been raging in the west end of San Fernando valley. Over 2,000 acres of grain and hay have been destroyed, together with ranch buildings and personal property of ranchers. John Mountain, a leading citizen, while fighting the fire, was prostrated by the intense heat and died. The loss so far is estimated at about \$30,000.

#### Street Car Accident.

In a street car accident at Seattle, W. T., Mrs. Charles Byles was unfortunate enough to break her ankle. Several others were bruised and badly shaken in the same accident.

#### Killed by a Train.

J. Driamond, aged 26, lost his life by jumping from a train at Petaluma, Cal., striking his head and crushing his skull. He was rendered unconscious and died a few hours later.

#### Suicide of a Poor Woman.

Mrs. T. R. Welch committed suicide at Seattle, W. T., by swallowing a quantity of carbolic acid.

#### Suicide of an Aged Man.

John Walhart, aged 93, hanged himself in his son's barn at Depaulville, N. Y.

## TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

#### A Merchant Kills a Farmer.

James Hardesty, the principal merchant of West Louisville, Ky., shot and killed Wm. Murphy, a leading farmer. The cause is unknown.

#### Murderous Foot-Pads.

Foot-pads waylaid Fred Schuneman, a well-known young man of Chicago, and when he attempted to defend himself shot and killed him and escaped. The pockets of the murdered man were rifled, and besides his money, a gold watch, diamond ring, stud and scarf pin were taken. Three men ran away immediately afterward.

#### Large Sawmill Burned.

At Fairchild, Wis., W. C. Foster's mammoth sawmill was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$80,000; insured for \$50,000.

#### A Military Convict Killed.

A colored military convict named Handley was killed at Fort Russell, Wyo., by Private Atkinson of the Seventeenth Infantry. The latter was a member of the guard in charge of some prisoners, including Handley, who made a break for liberty. He ran 300 yards, paying no attention to the commands to halt, and was instantly killed by a ball from Atkinson's rifle.

#### Yellow Fever on a Vessel.

The schooner Adele Thackeray had yellow fever on board and two men dead, on arriving at Delaware Breakwater.

#### The Hot Springs Disaster.

In a storm at Hot Springs, Ark., a building was swept away in the north end of town. The occupants, Mrs. Mattie Fletcher, and four children, colored, were drowned. The husband escaped. John Franklin rescued, un-

injured, a man from the swollen torrent in the same locality. The bodies of a woman and her one-year-old babe were found in a drift. An aged couple named Garrison occupied a small cottage near the Arlington stable. The force of the water caused the building to collapse, and the wife was killed. There are several lost whose names have not been ascertained. The victims are principally poor people, living in small cottages which could not stand against the storm.

#### Killed While Resisting Arrest.

Charles Stokes Gilman was shot and instantly killed at Salt Lake. There was a disturbance in a saloon and a deputy marshal undertook to make an arrest. Awhile after one of the peace disturbers, Gilman, grabbed the officer and dined him. Bench then called for help, and Bailiff McManimey responded. Two officers took Gilman to a drug store to telephone for the police to turn him over to them. Gilman, resisting, tried to shake the officers off and struck at them, when McManimey drew his pistol and shot Gilman three times, two balls taking effect in his heart and one passing through his wrist.

#### Killed by a Falling Bank.

While a gang of men were at work on the new highway embankment at St. Johnsbury, Vt., it fell. Three men were killed and several wounded.

#### Disastrous Oil Explosion.

A 25,000 barrel tank of oil exploded and oil was scattered in all directions, killing several persons and injuring a number of others at Cuyget, Ohio. The explosion was caused by vapor from the petroleum tank taking fire at the furnace used by laborers mending the tank, which contained 30,000 gallons. Two men were burned to death and several severely injured.

#### Fatal Boiler Explosion.

The boiler of a stove works at South Pittsburg, Tenn., exploded, instantly killing Charles Taylor, superintendent of the works; J. R. Mills, machinist; M. Donovan, foreman of the mounting department; George N. Carter, jeweler; Wm. P. Lambie, of Winchester, Tenn., and Wm. Watson, a moulder. William Gross, a machinist, and Rock Scruggs, a moulder, were both fatally injured. A large piece of the boiler was thrown end over end a distance of 100 yards, and landed through the side of a store and tore against the opposite wall.

#### An Unprovoked Murder.

Two respectable citizens of Parkersburg, W. Va., George Jones and John M. Willis, were murdered by Samuel Hare.

#### Section Men Killed.

Near Boonville, Mo., six section men were killed by a freight train jumping the track. The caboose attached to the freight was filled with passengers, all of whom escaped serious injury.

#### Mine Explosion.

A terrific explosion of gas occurred at the colliery of the Mount Pleasant Coal Company, Pa., working ruin and destruction in the mine and causing the death and injury of a number of employes.

#### Killed His Wife.

Eli Kahn, a cigar-maker, 61 years old, killed his wife at New York. Kahn was wealthy, and had retired from business. He was 61 years old, and his wife was five years older. The bodies were both cold in death, when found.

#### A Bloody Tragedy.

The Monroe county campaign culminated in a bloody tragedy at Clarenden, Ark. The fair-divide and people's candidates were to speak, and a great crowd gathered. Wm. Walls, waite, attempted to strike one Dillard, when the latter pulled a gun and shot Walls, who fell to his knees, pulled a revolver and shot Dillard twice, after which he fell back dead. A mob rushed on Dillard, but friends surrounded him and with pistols and knives declared their intention to defend him. Sheriff Robinson attempted to arrest Dillard, who shot the sheriff in the thigh. The mob fell upon Dillard and beat him terribly. A stray bullet killed a negro spectator. Dillard was finally spirited away. The mob is after him.

#### Poverty and Whisky.

A. G. Throckmorton, nephew of Governor Throckmorton of Texas, committed suicide at a ten-cent lodging house at Denver Colo., by an overdose of morphine. The act was induced by despondency caused by poverty and whisky. It is supposed that he recently came from Pueblo, Colorado, where he and his wife spent all they had in sickness.

## AGRICULTURAL.

### Devoted to the Interests of Farmers and Stockmen.

Much valuable manure may be saved by carefully odorizing and composting the refuse and night soil. A mixture of five bushels of dry dirt and one pound of carbonate of lime, added to the sink or closet as required, will convert the whole into a valuable manure, that can be handled as easily as that made in the barnyard.

Prof. Roberts, of Cornell University, says: "A cow that makes six pounds of butter a week on cold water will make seven pounds if the water is warmed." He further says that "cows will drink one-third more when the water is warmed to 80 degrees than they will at 32 degrees, and that the milk will increase one-fifth without deterioration."

The conceit is often knocked out of the dairyman who considers himself a first-rate judge of a cow, when he begins to weigh her milk and churn it into butter. It is very rare that the true inwardness of a cow can be ascertained, and her real dairy value known, until these tests are applied. Weigh the milk, and keep the record. Appearances are deceptive.

Many kinds of pears grow in clusters like cherries. Usually if these were reduced one-half or more, the crop would be more valuable. It seems a pity to cut out the young fruit just as it is formed, but it will pay. Nature does some of this work, but not enough. If half the blossoms drop without setting fruit, the orchardist will do well to cut off half of those that remain.

Switzerland has 660,000 milch cows, all of native breed, and divided into two sharply defined races, the brown and the spotted. The former color varies from deep fawn to mouse gray, the latter shade being held in most esteem. The brown race is short-horned and considered as the original type. It corresponds to the remains found on the sites of the Roman cities of the third century.

Three or four good sprouts are enough for the best yield of marketable potatoes of even the most prolific varieties. Small yielders, like some of the early sorts, may do better to have only one or two sprouts in a place, putting the hills closer together. Too many sprouts mean a great number of very small potatoes and few fit for market. It will often pay to thin them out if too numerous at first.

The phosphate rocks of South Carolina are so rich in phosphate that if dissolved by sulphuric acid they should contain twenty-eight per cent. of phosphate of lime. Few of them, however, show so high an average as this. The deficiency is due to adulteration partly with worthless substances to increase bulk and weight, but sometimes with nitrates to furnish ammonia, which is quite as necessary for crops as phosphate itself.

There is much injudicious watering of plants. Let it come as the slow, gentle rain, that never fails to benefit vegetation. The sprinkling-pot does not at all accomplish this, unless it has so fine a nozzle that the water comes out in mist or spray rather than in streams. Drenching plants often does harm. It packs the soil, causing the surface to harden in crust as it dries. If the water is cold from the well, as it often is, the injury is greater and the chance of benefit less.

As a pasture for cows no plant yields sweeter, richer herbage than white clover. Though its habit of growth is very close to the ground, it yields more pasture than would be supposed. If not allowed to blossom long enough for seed to form, the new herbage springs up quickly after cropping. Its roots are near the surface, and are easily reached by light rains, but owing to their spreading habit the roots are not injured by cattle trampling over them, as are those of red clover.

There is a little nutritive value in the first potatoes that comes to market. This tuber at its best is mainly starch, but the unripe potato has not even that. The potatoes whose skin can be rubbed off by the hand show by the fact that they are full of raw juices that need time to be developed in large part into layers of starch.

That the plantain is a nuisance is certain, but it is scarcely unmitigated except in the sense that where it has once gained possession it can never be entirely eradicated. The common plantain has about two-thirds the feeding value of common hay, ranking higher than most other weeds in this respect. Cattle will eat in pasture or in hay without being starved to it, as they have to be with the daisy. The large, vigorous plantains, that grow in rich ground, seem to be eaten more greedily by cows than the puny specimens dwarfed by poverty of soil.

## MARKET REPORT.

RELIABLE QUOTATIONS CAREFULLY REVISED EVERY WEEK.

WHEAT—Valley, \$1 30@1 31; Walla Walla, \$1 20@1 22 1/2.

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

OATS—Milling, 32@33c.; feed, 44@45c.

HAY—Baled, \$10@11 1/2.

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, 18c.

BUTTER—Fancy roll, per pound, 25c.; pickled, 20@25c.; inferior grade, 15@25c.

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., 40@50c.; radishes, per doz., 15@20c.; rhubarb, per lb., 6c.

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

POULTRY—Chickens, per doz., \$4 00@6 00; ducks, per doz., \$5 00@7 00; geese, \$6 00@8 00; turkeys, per lb., 12 1/2c.

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

GREEN FRUITS—Apples, \$ 60 @ 85c.; Sicily lemons, \$6 00@6 50 California, \$3 50@5 00; Navel oranges \$6 00; Riverside, \$4 00; Mediterranean, \$4 25.

DRIED FRUITS—Sun dried apples, 7 1/2c per lb.; machine dried, 10@11c.; plums, 13c.; Italian prunes, 10@14c.; peaches, 12 1/2@14c.; raisins, \$2 40@2 50.

WOOL—Valley, 17@18c.; Eastern Oregon, 9@15c.

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 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 inch, per M, \$2 25; 1 1/4 inch, per M, \$2 50.

BEANS—Quote small whites, \$4 50; pinks, \$3; bayos, \$3; butter, \$4 50; Limas, \$4 50 per cental.

COFFEE—Quote Salvador, 17c.; Costa Rica, 18@20c.; Rio, 18@20c.; Java, 27c.; Arbutle's's roasted, 22c.

MEAT—Beef, wholesale, 2 1/2@3c.; dressed, 6c.; sheep, 3c.; dressed, 6c.; hogs, dressed, 8@9c.; veal, 5@7c.

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, 6 1/2c.; extra C, 6 3/4c.; dry granulated, 7 1/2c.; crushed, fine crushed, cube and powdered, 7 1/2c.; extra C, 6 3/4c.; halves and boxes, 1/2c. higher.

## SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—A machine of one-horse power would keep 27,000,000 watches going.—*La Nature.*

—Type made from paper is the latest novelty. A process has been patented in England by which large type can be made from pulp.

—In a paper on injurious insects, Prof. J. A. Lintner placed the total number of insect species in the world at 60,000. Of these found in the United States 7,000 or 8,000 are fruit pests, and at least 210 attack the apple.

—Scientists claim that a tide mill located at the Bay of Fundy would generate 700,000 horse-power twelve hours a day. This distributed electrically and sold to every State in the Union would save the coal supply.

—The *Electrical Review* says that the uselessness of the lightning-rod is becoming so generally understood that the agents find their vocation a trying one. Fewer and fewer rods are manufactured each year, and "the day will come when a lightning-rod on a house will be regarded in the same light as a horseshoe over a man's door."