

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER.

VOL. I.

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ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A Maryland widow named Hallett set a bear-trap at her smoke-house door, and the first catch was a man who was courting her. He had packed up one hundred pounds of bacon to carry off.

A little colored girl in Albany, Ga., is gradually turning white, the skin of her face and arms being now hardly distinguishable in hue from that of a Caucasian child. Her hair, too, which was jet black, has become white.

Danbury, Conn., thinks it has something valuable in the Indian arrow and spear-head quarry recently discovered near there. Over one hundred heads in perfect preservation have been found, and apparently there are hundreds more.

Geo. F. Knapp, of South Bridgton, Me., is bragging considerably about his two-year-old heifer. The heifer ought to be proud, any way, for the other day she became the mother of three nice calves—two red ones and one white—all of good size, and all males.

There is a wonderful brown and golden bird in Mexico, a species of the bee flautin, that is a remarkably expert bee catcher. He has a way of ruffling up the feathers on top of his head, so that his crest looks exactly like a beautiful flower. When a bee comes along to sip honey from this delusive blossom it is snapped up and devoured.

A New York business man has a novel method of refreshing his memory. When he has something important to attend to the next day, he writes himself a postal-card, reminding him of the matter, and, finding the card among the mail the next morning, attends to it the first thing.

A man of Grant County, Wisconsin, drained off his fish-pond the other day, and in the bottom he found four silver watches and chains and a large number of silver spoons, knives and forks. It is supposed that a burglar, finding himself closely pursued, threw the plunder in the pond to get rid of it.

Queen Victoria has now reigned over England longer than any monarch but two—Henry III. and George III. She overtook Queen Elizabeth six years ago, and has outdone Edward III., who only reigned 148 days over half a century. If she lives a few years longer Victoria will have reigned longer than any Royal personage in history.

Mad. Victorin, who is known all over the continent as "the strongest woman in the world," and is sometimes spoken of as "the female Hercules," is of medium height, with a girlish, graceful figure, and nothing Herculean-looking about her. Yet she readily lifts one-thousand pounds. Her strength is wholly the result of athletic training since youth. She lives on very plain food.

John Leonardy was fishing with a snail in the river at Matanzas, Fla., a few days ago, when an enormous saw-fish ran into the net. The fish struggled fiercely, and cut the net up badly, but only succeeded in entangling itself in the meshes more securely, and was finally captured. It was measured and found to be 13 feet and 1 inch in length.

Some of the greatest men the world ever saw were superstitious. Napoleon Bonaparte was a believer in omens; the great Duke of Wellington would not offer battle on any day that he met or saw a yellow dog cross his path; Hannibal used to get out of his camp-bed backward so as to insure good luck for the day, and Frederick the Great carried a rabbit's foot to guard against evil.

A curiosity in Norwich, Conn., is a one-legged English sparrow which has a nest on the crown of a column in the front porch of the City Hall. He isn't worth much at building a nest, but he can help a little about hatching and making himself generally useful to one leg. His mate had to build the nest unassisted, but he furnished her with lively advice, and she seems to think as much of him as though he had two legs.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

NEW BORAX MINE FOUND.

The Sealing Fleet. Striking Seamen. Lighthouse Contracts. Immigration Board Pamphlet.

THE LIGHT HOUSE CONTRACTS.

The Sealing Fleet.

The sealing schooner *Triumph*, Capt. Dan McLean, has arrived at Victoria, B. C., with 2,500 skins as the season's catch. The little vessel looks trim and neat after her cruise and made the trip down in fifteen days, close-reefed all the way. The *Triumph* left Victoria on May 5, but did not sail from the west coast until the 24th of May, owing to difficulty in securing Indian hunters. The hunters comprised eleven Indians and two whites, and one of the latter secured 550 seals of the total catch. Off Queen Charlotte islands 667 seals were taken. The weather was very severe during the whole time in Bekring sea and on August 5 the worst gale ever known occurred there. It was during this storm that the whaling vessels were lost.

Several schooners were spoken before and after going into the sea. The *Mary Ellen* on August 20 had 1,800 seals. While out hunting an Indian was accidentally killed by the hunter in the boat. The latter laid his rifle across the thwart, and it suddenly discharged, the shot entering the Indian's side. He died two hours afterwards and his body was preserved in salt and landed at his home at Aehaslet. The *Maggie Mac* on August 7 had 647 skins, and the *Favourite* on July 25 had 664 skins. An Indian died on this vessel from black measles. The American schooner *Annie*, of San Francisco, on the 25th of July had 700 skins. The *Viva*, on the 25th of June, just entering the sea, had a catch of 400. Her coast catch was 759 skins. It is thought that the schooners will all have fair catches this year. Others of the fleet are expected to arrive daily.

Striking Seamen.

Coasting seamen are on the verge of inaugurating another strike, and freights are going down. Seamen are demanding \$50 for the voyage from Port Townsend to San Francisco. The schooner *Wm. Renton*, lumber-laden for Brisbane, is in trouble with the union seamen. The crew was shipped in San Francisco for the round voyage to Australia at \$25 per month. The union agent threatens bloodshed unless the men are paid \$5 more per month. The revenue cutter is guarding the vessel and will probably accompany her to sea.

Lighthouse Contracts Awarded.

The secretary of the treasury has awarded the contracts for the construction of a lighthouse at Cape Meares, Oregon, as follows: Erection of tower to C. B. Buhrkoop, Seattle, W. T., \$2,900; metal-work of tower to Willamette Iron Works, Portland, Oregon, \$7,800; erection of keeper's dwelling and oil-house to Robert Seaman, Seattle, \$26,000.

Pulling Snags.

The government snag boat *Willamette*, has been at work pulling snags between St. Johns and the Portland Flouring Mills. The work is none too soon and was needed badly enough. Let them trot out the dredge and then send the old snag boat into service along the upper Willamette next.

Pensions and Postoffices.

Pensions have been granted as follows: Washington Territory—Original invalid, Ira A. Doty, Rockford; increase, Watson Spencer, Seattle; Daniel C. Rose, Mount Vernon, Oregon—Increase, Alexander Borthwick, Portland.

Elijah McCalmond has been appointed postmaster at New Dungeness, at Clallam county, Washington Territory. A new office has been established at Johnson, Whitman county, with Elizabeth Y. Cooper as postmaster.

The Borax Mine.

Certain commercial circles at San Francisco are much interested in the recent discovery of borax in the Bay of Lomar ranch, Curry county, Or. The steamer *Newsbay* anchored in the Bay of Lomar ranch and discharged cargo and took on board the first shipment of borate of lime. This borate of lime is superior in quality to any hitherto discovered, according to the analysis of Prof. Price. The deposit is volcanic, the borate occurring in boulders varying in size up to 2,000 pounds weight, imbedded in volcanic

slud. The area of the deposit has been determined to be half a mile in length and 200 yards in width and thirty feet in depth. The discovery is considered of importance to the commercial world, for the mine is so close to the coast that a shell can be thrown from it into the water, so that the expensive item of land carriage, which has handicapped the borax industry of California and Nevada, as well as of Italy, Asia Minor, Chili and Thibet, no longer stands in the way. Vessels drawing three fathoms of water can go within three hundred yards of low water mark.

The bay, which forms a portion of a ranch of 1,200 acres, is half a mile in width, with good anchorage, and is protected both from the northwest and southwest. A tow-site will be laid out and a wharf built, and mining operations vigorously proceeded with at once.

A New Pump.

A new pump for high service has been shipped from Lockport, New York, for the Portland Water Works. The foundations for it are all prepared in the engine house at the Lincoln street reservoir. It has a capacity for a million and a half gallons per day, and will lift the water 325 feet above the base of city grades, which is 55 feet higher than the present high service reservoir. For the present the high service will be kept up by direct pressure during the day, and water will be pumped into the reservoir at night.

There are numerous demands for extension of the water service, and as soon as pipe can be had the laying of eighteen miles of new mains will be begun.

The city is extending in all directions, and water is demanded at the north end on the heights and at the south end. Next summer the city will use 10,000,000 gallons per day, and it will tax the pumps at the works to their utmost capacity to furnish the supply. The cost of fuel alone next year will amount to \$35,000. There will be no pump in reserve as there should be, and if any accident should happen, the water supply would run short.

A Collision Avoided.

The *Umatilla* arrived at Victoria, B. C., from San Francisco and reports that while steaming slowly through a fog 100 miles from San Francisco, a steamer's whistle was heard. The *Umatilla* whistled the unseen steamer to pass to the starboard, but no notice appeared to be taken by the other vessel, and in a few minutes she crossed the bows of the *Umatilla*. The distance between the vessels was less than fifty feet. An accident was avoided by the captain of the *Umatilla* reversing the engines when the whistle was first heard. The *Umatilla* stopped, and the captain did everything to save the vessel. The vessel was the steam schooner *Greenwood*, of San Francisco.

Prospecting for Black Cod.

H. Heldenson spent four weeks on Queen Charlotte islands prospecting and trading, and exploring for black cod banks. He succeeded in taking five or six barrels of black cod, the finest fish in the Pacific, in two days. The weather was very rough, and the fishing was done in a canoe, in 250 fathoms of water. The cod were located without difficulty, and fish found to be very plentiful. Heldenson is of the opinion that a good business can be done in deep sea fishing.

Distinguished Japanese.

Yoshitomi Hirasa and Nobuquoh Oi, natives of Japan, on their way to Tokio, arrived at San Francisco from the East. Mr. Hirasa is a high official in the imperial bureau of agriculture and commerce at Tokio, and was educated at an English college. Fourteen months ago he obtained leave from the Japanese government and made a second visit to Europe.

Mr. Oi is a wealthy resident of Tokio, and has been in England for the purpose of obtaining machinery for the establishment of a cotton mill in the city of Tokio. The mill will have 30,000 spindles if the enterprise proves successful.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

From Washington.

The House conference report on the fortifications appropriation bill has been adopted.

The bill authorizing the postmaster-general to purchase improved Mare locks and keys has been passed by the House.

Train Collision.

A freight train heavily laden dashed at full speed into a circus train, which was standing at Corwin station, Ohio. The caboose and rear of circus train was split in two, and four sleepers

ahead were telescoped. Four men were killed and eighteen were wounded, and of these all were canvass men, except Andy Smith, who was a contortionist. Smith is mortally wounded, and the injuries to the other seventeen wounded are trifling.

Seven Colored Men Killed.

A fearful battle between whites and blacks took place at Hilliardsville, Ala., in which seven colored men were killed. The trouble grew out of the fact that a white man refused to allow his well to be longer used by a crowd of camp-meeting negroes. One of the negroes expressed a determination to have some of the water, and the white man drew a pistol and shot him in the neck. That night a gang of negroes visited the house and dared the white man to come out, but he refused to do so, and after shooting holes in his windows and doors they left. The next night a gang, presumably friends of the white man, visited the negro camp and left several dead bodies as a reminder to other members of the camp-meeting crowd.

The Sprinter Record Broken.

Schiffertorn, the California amateur sprinter, broke the 100-yard record 1-5 of a second, at St. Louis, Mo., his time being 9 4-5 seconds. He defeated Joe Murphy, the local champion, with a record of 10 1/2 three yards.

An Aged Kleptomaniac.

John Kaufman, aged about sixty years, was found dead at Brazil, Ind., having died of a brain disorder. He was an eccentric character, and had an uncontrollable mania for stealing women's shoes, though he was never accused of stealing anything else. A few years ago he was arrested and forty or fifty pairs of women's shoes and slippers were recovered. He had buried them on the commons, near a blast furnace. Over sixty pairs of women's shoes and slippers were found in his hut. He was a veteran of the Mexican and civil wars and will be buried with military honors.

Oregon's Cereal Exhibit.

The Oregon cereal exhibit at the national encampment of the G. A. R., at Columbus, Ohio, in charge of Col. C. E. Dubois of Portland, is now in place in a room on the third floor of the First National bank building.

Thirteen Buildings Burned.

A fire broke out in a store at Cathargus, N. Y., which destroyed thirteen buildings. The loss is large.

Death of the Oldest Graduate of West Point.

Col. Edward G. Butler, the oldest graduate of West Point, died at St. Louis. He was born in Tennessee in 1799 and admitted to West Point in 1816. He served under Gen. Taylor in the Mexican war.

National Rifle Association.

There was a large attendance at the opening of the annual prize shooting of the National Rifle Association at Creedmore. The Wimbledon cup was won by W. M. Merrill of Massachusetts by a score of 134 with thirty shots at 1,000 yards.

Express Train Held Up.

The west-bound express train was stopped by three masked men at Parkers, A. T. They did not get anything. A reward of \$1,500 is offered for their capture, and Wells, Fargo will increase the amount.

Sale of an Opera House.

The sale of the Grand Opera House by the heirs of the Davidson estate to "Lotta" Crabtree, the actress, was completed at St. Paul. The price paid was \$150,000.

Murdered for Money.

Miss Ada Flynn, a handsome and accomplished young lady, was mysteriously murdered in her home near Glasgow, Pa., during the absence of the rest of the family. It is supposed the deed is that of a robber.

Jewelry Lost.

Mrs. Pierrepont Morgan, of New York, and friends, while out among the Thousand Islands, were thrown into the water by the capsizing of their boat. Mrs. Morgan lost jewelry valued at \$15,000.

"What is the first thing to be done in case of fire?" asked the professor. "Sue the insurance company," promptly answered the boy at the foot of the class, whose father had been burned out once or twice, and appeared to have made a good thing of it—*Price Current.*

—Paste diamonds are so called because people get stuck on them so often.

AGRICULTURAL.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF FARMERS AND STOCKMEN.

A man near Bangor, Me., is trying the experiment of grafting apple twigs into a pine tree. He wants to raise pineapples.

Florida promises to become a large producer of opium. Sixteen plants will produce an ounce, and an acre of poppies will yield \$1,000 worth of opium.

The whole value of fences in the United States may be set down at \$2,000,000,000, and its costs \$100,000,000 annually to keep them in repair.

Crisp radishes are those that grow rapidly. They should have rich, fine soil, free from stones or gravel, and the roots should be kept clean. Use them at any time after they have become large enough, for the longer they shall remain in the ground the less desirable will they be, as they become tough with age.

To prevent birds, mice or squirrels from pulling up seed corn until it shall have become warm; then stir in a little pine tar until every grain shall be coated. Now mix plaster, ashes or fine earth to dry off the corn. It will thus be in a condition to be planted by machine or hand.

It is claimed that the presence of the castor oil bean plants around the house will prevent mosquitoes from becoming very numerous. As the plant makes a beautiful ornament it would not be out of place, and might therefore be given a trial with advantage. It is doubtful, however, if there be any plants that will keep away the pests.

According to an English authority, the world consumes annually 650,000 pounds of coffee, which, at an average price of \$400, represents a value of \$260,000,000. Jamaica grows the best coffee; next in order come Ceylon and East India, Java, Brazil, Costa Rica and the other Central American States. Java produces the largest crop.

The American Cultivator recommends a mixture of hydraulic cement and skim-milk for painting farm buildings and fences. The cement is placed in a bucket, and sweet skim-milk stirred in until the mixture is of the consistency of cream. The proportions are about one quart of cement to a gallon of milk. Color may be added if desired. This paint is cheap and durable.

The Massachusetts Ploughman says the reason that so many raspberry and blackberry fields get full of grass is because they are neglected during August and September, and, in fact, during the whole autumn, so when spring opens the grass has full possession; but even when thus neglected, if the farmer will commence hoeing as soon as the frost leaves the ground, it is not a very difficult job to clear out all of the grass.

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 tramping over them, as are those of red clover.

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.

Far too few Lima beans are grown. In their dried state they are superior for cooking, and would be more largely used for that purpose, did not their usual high price prevent. The Lima bean requires pole, but it is unnecessary to make the poles longer than six feet out of the ground. When the vine gets to this height, stop its growth and turn all its strength into fruitfulness. When raised on a very large scale the Limas are grown sometimes without poles, the vines trailing on the ground. This is a slovenly practice, but a good many beans may be thus cheaply grown.

MARKET REPORT.

RELIABLE QUOTATIONS CAREFULLY REVISIED 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, 36@38c.; feed, 44@45c.

HAY—Baled, \$10@13.

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, 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. tins, per lb., 8 1/2c.

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

PROVISIONS—Oregon hams, 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, \$ 50 @ 85c.; Sicily 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 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 lath, per M, \$2 25; 1 1/2 lath, 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.; Arbuckle'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 1/2c.; dry granulated, 7 1/2c.; crushed, fine crushed, cube and powdered, 7 1/2c.; extra C, 6 1/2c.; halves and boxes, 4c. higher.

—A prominent engineer says that it will be noticed that most boiler explosions come, like black coffee, right after dinner. The reason for this, as he explains it, is that the water in the boilers is in perfect readiness to become steam, and would be such but for the pressure of the actual steam on top of it. When the dinner hour is over and the men and machines begin to work again, the valves are quickly opened, the steam rushes out, and the water suddenly becomes steam. As steam has 1,700 times the expansion of water the effect is an explosion.

—It is said that, notwithstanding his enormous wealth, Mackay is haunted with the fear of the poorhouse. Meantime Mrs. Mackay makes merry in London and Paris, and does not appear to entertain any horrid dreams of possible poverty in the near future.

—Mrs. Eliza Garfield was the only woman who ever saw her son inaugurated President of the United States. Washington's mother was living in Fredericksburg, Va., when the Father of his Country was inaugurated, but she did not witness the ceremony, which took place in New York.