

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER.

VOL. I.

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ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A cow in Findlay, Ohio, has developed a strange appetite; it catches and devours every stray feline that comes in its reach.

There are twenty-two crematories in Europe, in which over fourteen hundred incinerations have taken place during the past year.

The latest Arkansas sensation is a negro baby with two heads and faces, one arm and three legs, upon which it stands tripod fashion.

Tobacco culture is being pushed energetically in Florida, and an attempt to induce Cubans to immigrate there and grow the weed is being made. A commission, with that object, has started for Havana.

A life-size marble bust of Garibaldi, with a marble pedestal of about four feet high, has been received at Washington and placed in a hall of the upper lobby of the senate. It was presented by American citizens of Italian birth.

Mr. Nansen, a well known Norwegian athlete, is about to make the attempt of crossing the vast snow fields of Greenland on snowshoes. A wealthy Danish merchant has supplied the money for the unique enterprise.

To oxidize gold, silver or brass paint over the parts to be oxidized with a solution of chloride of platinum; then let it dry. To make the solution of chloride of platinum dissolve one dram in two ounces of hot water.

Electric rifles are the latest. Instead of the ordinary percussion firing device, a dry chloride of silver battery and a primary coil will, so it was lately stated before the American Institute, fire the rifle 35,000 miles without recharging.

Pyrofuscine, the new tanning agent, is obtained by digesting coal tar with caustic soda at a boil, and neutralizing the resulting liquor with hydrochloric acid. The inventor claims it is only half as costly as the bark process and from 20 to 30 per cent. cheaper than the alum process.

It is found that nearly every kind of glass, especially that containing manganese, is liable to a change of color by the action of sunlight, but the glass can be restored to its original color by heat. Stained glass windows that has changed tints through solar action can thus be restored by heat.

According to Mr. E. G. Ravenstein, the English foot is used as the standard of length by countries having 17,000,000 inhabitants, the metre of 39,370,910 people, and the Castilian foot by 5,905,000. Denmark and Russia are the only countries in Continental Europe which have not adopted the metre.

Empress Victoria, of Germany, has invented a writing desk which she has manufactured, which enables the emperor to write whether lying in bed or standing up. It is available in any position, and the mechanism employed is said to be intricate and remarkably effective.

A new candle has been brought out which extinguishes itself in an hour. This it does by means of a tiny extinguisher of tin which is fastened in the wax by wires, and which effectively performs its task. It is only necessary to remove this diminutive extinguisher when its work is done, and the candle is again ready to burn another hour.

A Boston genius has been estimating the candle power of the moon. By comparison with an electric lamp of four hundred power at a certain distance he finds the light of the moon to be 134,000,000,000,000. This he calculates is about the number of candles, placed one-half inch apart, it would take to cover one-half the surface of the moon.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

THE RICH GOLD STRIKE.

Narrow Escape From Starvation. Train in the Mud. Successful Swindlers. Big Explosion.

A WOMAN BURNED AS A WITCH.

Rich Gold Strike.

Thomas Mesgher, who is engaged in mining on the Swauk, cleaned up \$1,400 in nuggets and fine gold. Among the nuggets was one weighing \$64. He informed the correspondent that he had traced the float and had discovered a fine ledge, in connection with Mr. Black, which was regarded by them as the long-sought mother ledge. They first discovered decomposed quartz, which showed from 200 to 400 colors to the pan, and after going through this they struck what they regard as the main ledge. This is free milling, and will assay about \$80 to the ton. This gold discovery is within twenty-five miles of Ellensburg, and almost within sight of the railroad. It is regarded as a most important discovery.

Train Stuck in the Mud.

The Berkeley train met with an accident near Shell Mound park, Cal., which delayed traffic to a considerable extent. Workmen had been engaged in repairing a piece of side track switching off from the main track, and the entire passenger train bound to Berkeley ran into the mud, sinking about three feet. The rear car, however, remained on the track in such a position that the Sacramento train could not pass, and freight and passengers were transferred to other cars sent from Oakland. An extra boat was sent over from San Francisco to bring over the delayed passengers.

Burned as a Witch.

Frank Semon, formerly a policeman at Los Angeles, Cal., says about three weeks ago, near Rock Springs, San Bernardino county, a band of Mojave Indians tied a young squaw who was reported bewitched to a stake and burned her alive. It was two hours before the terrible deed was completed and the girl's screams silenced. The Indians told Semon that it had been several years since they had burned a witch, though several had been condemned since then, but managed to escape.

Explosion of a Magazine.

A magazine on Two Brothers island, Esquimalt, exploded, sending up a dense volume of smoke, and demolishing the wooden building. Stored in the magazine was 300 pounds of powder in cartridges, twenty-two bombs, shells, and eight not charged, together with a quantity of fuse and gun tackle. A fire was caused through the keeper burning brush on the island, and this communicated to the magazine. No one was injured. The fire brigade on the man-of-war, Esquimalt, proceeded to the island and extinguished the flames. The magazine was under charge of C battery.

A Narrow Escape.

Capt. Saxe, of the schooner Addie C. Hasseltine, and his crew, had a remarkable experience on their last voyage. She arrived at San Francisco fifty-seven days out from the Marshall islands, with not a single thing edible in the store house. Capt. Saxe did not consider when he started that the voyage would last longer than thirty days, but he took provisions sufficient for forty. The little schooner was recalled for day together, and finally the provisions gave out, although toward the last everything was carefully hoarded. Luckily the steward discovered a barrel of beans and some lard, and for several weeks the captain and his six men lived on beans and lard cake, relieved by cocoanut. They grew so tired of this that they could eat but little.

Successful Swindlers.

Two men, registering as A. Blackford of Texas, and F. A. Johnson of Washington territory, have victimized different saloons at San Francisco, by a somewhat unusual method. They would visit saloons dressed as country youths who were in the city for the first time. Having given many small orders for various drinks and refreshments, and paying for the same they would present a note, which, after careful examination by the proprietor, would be accepted and change returned. The notes given were invariably of the twenty-dollar denomination, and were issued from the Bank of Columbus, Ga., in 1856. These notes were accepted at many places,

and in the course of business were passed from one concern to another. That they were genuine was not doubted until a day or two since, when an inquiry having been made at the sub-treasury, one was rejected. At the Bank of California the paying teller stated that the note was genuine, but gave it as his opinion that probably the Bank of Columbus had long since closed its doors, as hundreds of local banks had done since 1856. As it was the note was no commercial value in this city. The two sharpers have disappeared. They have been successful, and it is thought they realized several thousand dollars by their scheme.

A Suicide's Death.

Daniel Haas, a farm laborer employed on Henry Stover's ranch, on Birch creek, Or., committed suicide by hanging, while in a fit of temporary insanity. He had been acting strangely for several days and a razor had once been taken away from him. He took a rope from the barn, went to a bridge over a small creek, fastened the rope to the bridge, made a slip-knot and put it around his neck and then jumped off. He was strangled to death. Deceased was 24 years old, and his parents live at St. Joseph, Indiana.

Furniture Factory Burned.

Rossman & Roeder's large furniture factory at Tacoma, W. T., was discovered on fire, and the flames gained such headway before the fire department got into service, that they could not be stayed and the factory was totally destroyed. The loss is about \$25,000; insurance, \$8,000. The watchman discovered the fire in the office. Its origin is unknown.

Crushed to Death.

Patrick Kelly, an employe of Sells Bros.' circus, was crushed to death at San Francisco by having a large tank of gasoline thrown upon him from a railroad car while switching.

Mail Service for Enterprise.

Senator Dolph has been notified by the second assistant postmaster general that Enterprise, Or., will hereafter be supplied by the mail route to Rio Grande and St. Joseph.

A Jewelry Thief Arrested.

The mulatto J. Kelly, who broke into Catlin Bros.' store at Freepoint, W. T., was arrested at Winlock, and brought back and given a preliminary examination. Justice Hinson bound him over in the sum of \$1,000 and not being able to give bail he was taken to jail at Kalama. Most of the jewelry was recovered.

An Escaped Burglar Captured.

Henry Cohen, one of the four burglars who committed a daring robbery in Gross Bros.' dry goods store at Tacoma, W. T., and who escaped by a run and a jump over the high board fence surrounding the jail yard, was captured in a reckless attempt to "tap" the jail and release his confederates. He returned shortly after dark and circled round the jail building to a point immediately beneath the window of the prisoners' cell. Evidently by a preconcerted arrangement a string had been dropped out of this window, and to this he was tying a package containing a chisel, whetstone and a knife, when Deputy Sheriff Duffield, who suspected the plot and was in hiding near by, ordered him to surrender. He sprang for the fence, and Duffield fired on him when he fell back and was captured. He is only 20 years of age, and comes of a good family in Chicago.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Under Contract to Marry.

Two dozen young Swedish girls, first-class passengers on the steamer Keka, landed at New York. It is admitted that they were imported under contract by an agency in this city to marry young men they had never seen except by photograph. They had not even courted by mail. Twenty-three girls go to Western States, where they will find husbands. The other remained here. The authorities will inquire into the society's methods.

An Accommodating Conductor.

Two men, Steele and Mackabee, both drunk, boarded the train at Mt. Sterling, Ky., and fought all the way to Sleepstone, where the conductor, for the safety of the passengers put the men off and let them fight it out. They drew pistols and exchanged five shots each. The fifth shot from Steele's pistol passed through Mackabee's brain, killing him. They were cousins. After the killing Steele boarded the train and proceeded homeward, the train having waited until the duel was over.

Death of a Wealthy Woman.

People at Portland, Me., are feeling deeply the sudden death of Mrs. Anastasia Patten, a well known society lady of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Patten was one of the richest women in America, and is said to have been worth \$5,000,000. She was a bold speculator, and during the past few years added largely to her wealth by real estate investments. Eighteen months ago one of her daughters was married in Washington to Congressman Glover, of Missouri. The wedding was the notable society event of the season. Mrs. Patten signalized the occasion by presenting the bride with half a million in 4 per cent. U. S. bonds.

Lawless Chicago.

Mrs. Fredrick, of California, on a visit to friends in Chicago, was knocked down in the heart of the business district, in the afternoon, in the presence of hundreds of people. The thief snatched her pocket-book and escaped. Mrs. Fredrick does not seem to be badly hurt, but suffers from the nervous shock.

Four Children Burned to Death.

The 14-year-old daughter of Byrd Smith, of Divine Station, Tex., tried to kindle a fire with kerosene. The can exploded and burned her and three younger children to death. Mrs. Smith was seriously burned in trying to save them.

A Desperado Killed.

John N. Wogan, aged 60, the most notorious desperado in Southern Illinois, who for ten years has figured in the criminal courts of Wabash county, was shot and killed by Constable Hall of Belmont. Hall had arrested Wogan on a charge of attempting to kill his own son and daughter, and Wogan making a suspicious move which indicated violence to Hall, the latter drew a revolver and shot him through the head.

Terrific Explosion.

A terrific explosion occurred at the mill of the National Milling Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The mill took fire and was destroyed entirely. Loss, \$150,000; insurance, \$75,000. There were eight men in the mill at the time. Peter Gierman perished in the flames, and four others are seriously burned. Six escaped without injury. The others are unaccounted for. It is thought that at least three of them are dead in the ruins.

Flood in Georgia.

The flood in the Savannah has covered the rice plantations near Savannah, and the rice crop is nearly, if not quite, a total loss. Reports from country districts state that the lowlands are all under water, and roads and bridges have been carried away, so that travel is almost impossible. While there is great damage to property, no deaths have yet been reported.

Shot His Wife and Killed Himself.

John Spilinek, a Bohemian tailor, of Omaha, in a fit of temporary insanity, shot his wife. He discharged four chambers of a revolver at her, each bullet taking effect. He then placed the muzzle in his mouth and killed himself.

Fatal Boiler Explosion.

The boiler of F. W. Brown's sawmill at Axe Point, W. Va., exploded, killing William Brown, manager and son of the owner, and William Knabenshue, a mill hand.

An Actor Tried for Stealing.

Charles C. Fair, an actor, was arrested on complaint of Louise Pauline, who claims that in May 1886, she faintly after a matinee at Philadelphia, and that her dress was loosened and a purse containing jewelry and \$1,500 fell from her bosom that was given to Fair, who never returned the money and tried to make her believe one of the ladies took it; and that he afterwards confessed the theft and begged her not to disgrace him. She was unable to get her money and therefore had him arrested.

An Oily Prisoner.

The jury in the case of W. A. Strong, ex-secretary of State of Louisiana, charged with embezzlement, announced that an agreement had been reached. The sheriff went out to call the attorney-general and Strong followed without attracting attention, and has not since been seen. The jury had found him guilty.

The ashes of very old wood do not contain so much potash as ashes of wood of younger growth. Ashes generally pay well on all ordinary crops, but are especially adapted to the wants of fruit trees, grape vines and all kinds of vines, clover and peas.

AGRICULTURAL.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF FARMERS AND STOCKMEN.

Condensed milk is being shipped from Lansing, Mich., to Buenos Ayres.

A new green bug is causing a steady and increasing decline of coffee production in Ceylon.

One of the benefits of Statehood to Dakota is a donation of 9,000 acres of government land for the Agricultural College.

Senator Leland Stanford's vineyard, near Chico, Cal., comprises 3,600 acres, and is the largest in the world. Last year 1,000,000 gallons of wine were made.

Matthew Crawford, of Ohio, recommends shallow culture for blackberries. Some very successful plantations are never cultivated, but receive special mulchings.

For mulching gooseberries and currants no material is better than the short clippings from the lawn. It lies closely, keeps down weeds and promotes needed cohesiveness to the soil.

The grape rarely fails when allowed to climb on trees. It matters not what kind of trees, whether they are living or dead, if they only have branches that the tendrils take hold of.

Current and gooseberry bushes should be pruned every year. If they are pruned in tree form they will bear larger and finer fruit, and the latter will not be so apt to mildew.

The damage done to fruit trees by rabbits, borers and insects, may be prevented by applying pine tar to the bodies of the trees. Warm the tar and apply with a brush.

One-fourth of the cows in the United States do not pay the cost of their keep, the cause being the failure of farmers and dairymen to properly grade up their stock.

Salt should be placed where all kinds of stock can get it. At this season, when green food is plentiful, salt will be found excellent, as it will often prevent bowel diseases and stave off injury from the young grass.

When chicks are droopy or weak care is needed to recuperate them. A little more green food and onions should be given them, or, if they are too much purged, a little powdered chalk and bone oil in their soft food—one teaspoonful of each to a pint of food is sufficient.

An oblong form is better than a square one for the home garden. Seeds sown or planted in rows instead of little beds simplifies the whole matter, and admits of the use of the plow and cultivator instead of the spade, the hoe and the rake, and makes its cultivation a pleasure instead of a dreaded task.

The future pig must have more flesh and less fat. It must not be a mere lard keg. It must be fed upon flesh-forming foods until grown, and then fattened. It means that more clover, peas, oats, milk and such articles of diet must be used, and less corn. We will then have healthier and more palatable pork, and hog cholera will be a thing of the past.

Should a wagon or buggy tire become a little loose from shrinkage of the fellos instead of taking the wheel to the shop to have the tire cut and replaced get half a gallon of lincseed oil, and after heating it pretty well pour the same in a shallow dish and give the rim of the wheel a few slow turns around through it. The oil penetrating the fellos will so swell them that the tire will become as tight as ever.

No kind of grain is so well adapted to feeding young stock of any kind as oats. Their large proportion of husk keeps them from clogging the stomach, even of stock that has too poor digestion for thriving on corn. Pigs will prefer the latter grain, if both are given together, but the pig is not the best judge of what is adapted to his needs. The oats should, however, be at least full weight to give the best results. Much of the Western oat crop is generally light, from ripening in dry, hot weather. The standard weight of oats in some Western States is thirty pounds per bushel, and in others as low as twenty-eight pounds.

MARKET REPORT.

RELIABLE QUOTATIONS CAREFULLY RE- VISED 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@16c.; Timothy, 9@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, 16@18c.; California, 14@15c.

VEGETABLES—Beets, per sack, \$1 50; cabbage, per lb., 2@2c.; carrots, 2@2c.; 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; 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; pitted 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 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 1/4 lath, per M, \$2 50.

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

COFFEE—Quote Salvador, 17c; Costa Rica, 18@20c.; Rio, 18@20c.; Java, 27 1/2c.; 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—Kege quoted steady at \$1 35.

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

Delicious Frozen Coffee.

Take two quarts of fresh filtered, or spring water, if obtainable, bring it to the boil, then add half a pound of the best Old Government Java coffee, roasted and ground; stir well together, cover and set aside on the range to infuse. Stir occasionally for the first ten minutes, then let it stand in a warm place till well settled. Now strain the coffee clear through a fine muslin cloth, and add water to make two quarts, dissolve one pound of pulverized sugar in it and set aside to cool; then pour it into the freezer, add the whites of two eggs, and freeze the mixture to a softish texture. This frappe is generally served in high glasses. On the continent of Europe this ice is called "cafe moussoux," also, "cafe frappe a la glace." The fourth part of a vanilla bean is also sometimes infused in the coffee when making it, and tends to heighten the aroma of the coffee. Some persons also add half a pint of rich cream to it before freezing. The addition of these, however, are matters of taste and fancy.—Confectioner's Journal.