

POLK COUNTY OBSERVER.

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Was There a Duel in the Park?

Consternation was caused among the park police of New York by the receipt of a note that two society young men were to fight a duel during the night over a young society woman, in Central park. All officers were told to look vigilantly for the duellists throughout the night, and arrest any suspected persons. An officer found in a secluded place near the west drive and opposite Ninety-second street, early in the morning, two blood-stained handkerchiefs, clots of blood and a cheap pistol. All hospitals were searched for persons who arrived during the night with gun or pistol shot wounds, and inquiries were made among physicians and drug stores in the neighborhood, but without result. The police think they have been made game of, and are further perplexed as reporters came in to ask for information five minutes after the things were received. It was an unusual visit at such an early hour.

Department Rulings.

The Treasury Department having been informed by the Collector of Customs of San Francisco of the result of the trial in the United States Court, wherein J. P. Ames and others secured judgment awarding them \$375 65 collected from them by Collector Hager for services and expenses of an Inspector of Customs sent to Port Costa to count and inspect grain bags manufactured in the United States from foreign material, which were exported filled with grain from San Francisco, and on which the manufacturer claims a drawback, has instructed the Collector to take the necessary steps to pay the judgment. He is also instructed to discontinue the practice of exacting such fees and expenses in investigations to establish the right to the drawback on such bags, and is requested to furnish the department with a certified list of such fees and expenses collected by him since the commencement of the suit.

The Strike at Indianapolis.

The strike of railroad switchmen is taking an ugly phase in Indianapolis. Not a single switch engine in the city was moved. In the freight yards everything is in confusion. Morning trains were abandoned half made up, or not made up at all. In all the yards business was at a complete standstill. In several places the engineers and firemen, or other employes pressed in to service, tried to go on with the work, but the strikers interfered and successfully prevented the departure of any trains. The engineers and firemen saw in sympathy with the switchmen, and made no attempt to man their engines. In nearly every instance they quit work, ran their engines to their stalls and drew the fire when the switchmen requested it. All forenoon strikers have been going from one yard to another and warning applicants for work that if they undertook to touch switch engines they would be handled roughly. The officers of the road called for police protection, and an effort will be made to start out new crews.

Interested Railroad Trying to Remedy Some of the Existing Evils.

The committee appointed at the conference of representatives of the Transcontinental and Central Traffic Associations and trunk lines, at St. Louis, to remedy the existing evils on Pacific coast business, reported that the condition which unfavorably affected the revenues from east bound passenger traffic from the Pacific coast were attributable to the fact that the representatives on the coast improperly received and disbursed funds for the purpose of securing business. As the Eastern lines are desirous of bettering the conditions under which such traffic exists at present, it is probable some action will be taken ere long, on the recommendation of the committee that all lines adopt such restrictions as would secure uniform action, and that each association take up the subject and consider it separately. Any association agreeing upon uniform rules will doubtless receive the co-operation of all the others.

Died in a Foreign Land.

Word has been received in New York of the recent death in Cannes, France, of Andrew J. Baker, a wealthy banker of Tacoma, W. T. Baker left for France with his wife about a year ago, and before his departure called on Joseph B. Braman, attorney at 120 Broadway, and had his will drawn, leaving as heirs two sons and a married daughter. One of these sons, Leslie C. Baker, when last heard from, eight years ago, was a barkeeper in Detroit. His whereabouts is at present unknown.

The length of pipe laid in Paris for the distribution of power by compressed air already exceeds thirty miles. The compressing engines are of three thousand horse-power, and about three million cubic feet of air are compressed daily to a pressure of eighty pounds per square inch, at an expenditure of fifty tons of coal.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Farmers in the Palouse are happy over the recent rains.

A Chilean employed at the Tacoma mill fell dead Monday last.

A cow killed at Chelatchie, Clarke county, W. T., dressed 912 pounds.

At Cheney there are no vacant houses and constant demand for them.

Wheat is worth 65 cents a bushel at Cheney, sacked, at the elevator.

The new foundry at Colfax began work November 10.

Tacoma has a new company of cadets, 15 members already, 15 to 17 years old.

The Tom Paine is turning out large quantities of \$40 ore.

The Worley mine at Robinsonville will be operated all winter.

Many new companies will operate in Baker county next season.

The Pandora at Huntington is giving great encouragement to its owners.

Miners are happy with the prospects of a large water supply the coming season.

Mose Saxon, of the Pantheon saloon, Colfax, fell off a bridge and broke his left arm.

At Wa-Wa-Wai, on Snake river, J. B. Holt grew a sweet potato that weighed 12 pounds.

Uniontown is to have a distillery. The company is organized and it will soon be running.

Over fifty men arrived at Farmington, W. T., in one day. Hotels crowded and restaurants.

The Tacoma jail has thirteen prisoners in six cells. Criminals increase as fast as the town.

Stockmen in Umatilla county complain of short grass and hard frosts make it shorter.

Little Georgie Roder, of Brookfield, Clatsop county, is in the hospital with a broken bone.

Charles Cowan has been bound over at Salem charged with a bestial crime and not furnishing \$700 bail is in the county jail.

Tacoma is to have a street railway of the electric motor sort, run with a wire over the track. They are said to work well.

P. J. Smith, one of the most prominent farmers of Squaw, was probably fatally hurt by the breaking of a hay press.

Two new anchors and buoys are on the way from San Francisco for Tacoma harbor. The anchors weigh 5,900 pounds each.

Several valuable horses have died near Sherman, Lincoln county, of a new and unknown disease, which seems to affect the lungs of mares only.

The new tug Sea Lion is soon to arrive from San Francisco to engage in the Puget Sound business. She is one of the most powerful tugs on the coast.

The Cornwall Company, at Whatcom, will push the railroad over the Cascades; also will build to promising coal beds on the Nooksack early in the spring.

The Farmington Register tells how L. Denson kicked a quarrel with one Barnum, a working man, and got knocked down. He tried to shoot Barnum and got into jail for it.

John Lochfeld fell off a train and had his fingers crushed so that amputation was necessary. He was in charge of a car of stock going from Chehalis to Tacoma. He nearly died from cold and exhaustion before he was found.

The new mill of the St. Paul & Tacoma Lumber Company, will be of colossal size, being just twice the length of the present building, and will have a capacity of 600,000 feet of lumber per day, being the largest output of any lumber company on the coast.

Messrs. Harris and Young, owners of the Tom Paine mine, now have seventeen men on their pay roll. Their Salmon mill has been kept running on very rich ore, for the past several weeks until the late cold weather froze up their water power, which compelled them to order an engine and boiler from Portland, which will arrive in a few days. This will enable them to keep their mill running all winter.

William McCloud, living five miles west of Pullman, with his family, got up at 5 o'clock as usual, went out and did not return. He was found hanging by the neck to a beam in an old barn a mile away. The pains he took to splice old ropes and leather straps to hang himself by, and the fact that it broke once and he tried the second time, show it was a deliberate suicide. He was to move into a new house in Pullman that week. He was very dyspeptic and had severe spells of sickness.

AGRICULTURAL.

Turn the sod under after frost appears if you wish to kill out the cut-worms.

Winter oats grow in Virginia and are seeded down in the fall. It might pay to try a small plot in this section.

Cooked clover, and the mess thickened with ground oats, makes an excellent addition to the food of the brood sow.

Cold frames can be used for forcing some of the hardy plants in winter. Early cabbage and lettuce are grown in this manner.

Mix wood ashes, cinder and gravel together for your garden walks, and run a roller over it after each rain until it is well packed.

The best varieties of early raspberries are the Tyler and Souhegan. The Ohio and Mammoth Cluster are excellent late varieties.

In feeding grain to poultry it is better to vary it, allowing wheat and oats as well as corn. Cooked potatoes make an agreeable change for laying hens.

Plant your trees, vines, etc. this fall. Do not postpone the work until spring. If you cannot possibly plant this fall, get the trees now and heel until spring.

Watermelons for the Christmas dinner are not an impossibility. It is said that they will keep perfectly if put away in a mow of well cured hay, free from dampness.

Sweet potatoes will fatten a pig sooner than will corn. The small tubers can be used as well as those that may be damaged by cooking them for that purpose.

Here is a good health mixture for hogs: One bushel of charcoal broken into small pieces, a peck of wood ashes and twelve bushels of salt.

It is computed that this year's corn crop, if loaded for railroad shipment, would fill 2,878,571 cars and make a train that would reach 16,449 miles, or two-thirds the way around the world.

If mice are troublesome they can often be easily got rid of by soaking wheat in a good solution of arsenic and burying it at the roots of trees where the mice will be likely to find it.

In France whitewash is used to protect the frame and interior of buildings from fire. The beams, joists and under side of floorings being thickly coated with a lime-wash before they are placed in position.

Now is the time to secure rams if early lambs of the mutton breeds are desired next spring. Sheep should not be too fat at this season if intended for breeding purposes. Dry pasture is better for them than heavy grain feeding.

It is a curious fact that wasps' nests sometimes take fire, as is supposed by the chemical action of the wax upon the material of which the nest is composed. Undoubtedly many fires of unknown origin in hay-stacks and farm buildings may thus be accounted for.

The wells on the farm should be cleaned out every fall. Despite all precautions but few wells are free from taint. It is not safe to wait until the water becomes affected before cleaning, but do it now, before the late rains come on, so as to render the work easier.

Good cider vinegar is always salable, and it pays to convert the surplus apples into cider for the purpose of making vinegar. The artificial vinegar can be used for choice pickles and other purposes for which good cider vinegar only is adapted, and does not, therefore, largely compete with it.

Don't try to crowd fifty hens into a poultry-house suitable for only twenty-five, as the larger the crop the fewer the eggs proportionately, unless they have perfect accommodations. As a rule, small flocks give a larger profit from the same outlay than when numbers are kept that can not be properly provided for.

Place your manure heap under cover so as to be able to work it over in winter. Rains should never fall on the manure at any season. It is of great advantage to turn over the heap in winter, create heat and thereby decompose the materials, in order to render them fine and in good condition to spread on the land in spring.

In storing apples a free circulation of the air through the barrel will be of advantage. The fruit should be kept in a cool place, but should be beyond the reach of frost. Only sound apples should be used, as the slightest touch of decay on a single apple will sometimes cause the whole to rot.

An English farmer who has been investigating the caterpillar pest, which has proved so destructive to the fruit and nut crops in Kent, has concluded that the spawn which produced the caterpillars was deposited by the swarm of butterflies which swept the coast last autumn, and which were supposed to have been driven over the continent by the storms.

H. Hendricks, of Ulster county, N. Y., writes that he has found very satisfactory results in close pruning of grapes. Last summer he stopped the rampant growth of the canes by pruning each one at two leaves from the last cluster of fruit, and pinching off every lateral but one leaf. The result in amount and quantity of fruit was eminently satisfactory.

An Ohio man answers an inquiry as to how a cow can be cured of kicking, thus: Take a surcingle of sufficient length to go around the cow just in front of the bag and hips; draw it gently but firmly. You can then sit down and milk quietly. After repeating this a few times, draw the surcingle lightly, but, if she persists in kicking, draw it tightly. In time she will give up the contest.

The color of the hog seems to be a matter of importance. Experiments show that, contrary to expectation, a black hog, such as the Essex and Berkshire, thrives best in the South, while the white breeds, such as the Chester White, Yorkshire and Cheshire thrive best in the North. The Poland-China, a spotted hog, and the Jersey Red are preferred in the Western States.

Raspberries will thrive on almost any well drained soil of moderate richness, but wet land is always injurious and often fatal to them. Harrow smooth and fine and plant deep. Plant in late fall or early spring, in straight rows seven feet apart, with bushes three feet apart in the row. If planted late in the spring, tender shoots are liable to retard future growth. For the first season give clean culture, and, if desirable, other crops may be grown among them without injury.

Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College, says his plan is to keep only large, fine mares to do his work on the farm. Those of his half percheron will do, though those of three-quarter or seven-eighths blood will be better. These high-grade percheron are fine walkers, and to break them it is only necessary to hitch them in at three years of age and go to working them. The fall colts are valuable, and can be raised at a profit. He says he is delighted with his plan.

It is the verdict everywhere that creameries stimulate farmers to keep more and better cows. Mr. J. H. Hall says that where creameries have been located many of the brush pastures have been cleared up within the past few years, and he notices that more of this work is going on this season than ever before. He is often shown farms that before the days of creameries kept from three to five cows that are now keeping from eight to twenty.

Now is the time to get rid of the poorer animals. It will not pay to winter them, as better animals will give larger returns for shelter, care and feed. It is not economy to keep a poor animal through any season, but it is most extravagant to keep it through the winter. It is the height of folly in stock-raising to sell the best and keep the worst. True, the best bring the largest prices, but if you sell the best and keep the worst soon your best will be no better than your worst is now, and your worst will be such that the more you have the poorer you will be. You, by this plan, constantly make your animals poorer, and as the stock-raiser makes his animals poorer he makes himself poorer. If he keeps up the process bankruptcy is as sure as fate. The opposite policy is the winning policy.

A prominent woman lawyer of Ohio is Miss Florence Cronise, of Tiffin. She has been in active practice for fifteen years, and has secured a competence and a large list of clients.

The Chinese Government has refused an English firm permission to set up cotton cleaning machinery in that country. The decision is made that foreigners have no right to start manufacturing on Chinese soil.

Panama is to have a street railway. The builder has been granted a franchise for fifty years, during which time he is to pay a privilege tax of 20 per cent. of the net profits of the road. At the end of that time the road and all appurtenances revert to the municipality.

R. Kondo, of the Mining University of Japan, said to be the wealthiest Japanese outside of the Royal family, and the operator of sixteen gold, silver and copper mines, is about to visit the Lake Superior mineral region to obtain a knowledge of the mining machinery used in this country.

Portland Market Report.

WHEAT—Valley, \$1 40@1 42; Walla Walla, \$1 32@1 35.

BARLEY—Whole, \$0 85@1 00; ground, per ton, \$20 00@21 50.

OATS—Milling, 32@34c.; feed, 28@30c.

HAY—Baled, \$10@13.

SEED—Blue Grass, 12@15c.; Timothy, 7@8c.; Red Clover, 11@12c.

FLOUR—Patent Roller, \$5 00; Country Brand, \$4 50.

EGGS—Per doz, 30c.

BUTTER—Fancy roll, per pound, 25c.; pickled, 22½@25c.; inferior grade, 20@22½c.

CHEESE—Eastern, @13½c.; Oregon, 13@14c.; California, 14c.

VEGETABLES—Beets, per sack, \$1 00; cabbage, per lb., 1c.; carrots, per sk., \$ 75; lettuce, per doz, 10c.; onions, \$ 85; potatoes, per 100 lbs., 40c.; radishes, per doz., 15@20c.; rhubarb, per lb., 6c.

HONEY—In comb, per lb., 18c.; strained, 5 gal. cans, per lb., 8½c.

POULTRY—Chickens, per doz., \$3 00@4 00; ducks, per doz., \$5 00@6 00; geese, \$6 00@7 00; turkeys, per lb., 12c.

PROVISIONS—Oregon hams, 12½c per lb.; Eastern, 15@16c.; Eastern breakfast bacon, 12c. per lb.; Oregon 10@11c.; Eastern lard, 10@11½c. per lb.; Oregon, 10c.

GREEN FRUITS—Apples, \$ 60 @ 75c.; Sicily lemons, \$6 00@6 50 California, \$6 00@6 50; Naval oranges \$6 00; Riverside, \$5 00; Mediterranean, \$4 25.

DRIED FRUITS—Sun dried apples, 4c. per lb.; machine dried, 10@11c.; pitless plums, 7c.; Italian prunes, 10@12c.; peaches, 10½@11c.; raisins, \$2 40@2 50.

HIDES—Dry beef hides, 12@13c.; curris, 6@7c.; kip and calf, 10@12c.; mullain, 10@12c.; tallow, 4@4½c.

WOOL—Valley, 15@18c.; Eastern Oregon, 10@15c.

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; shepping, per M, \$25 00; over 15 inches wide, extra, \$1 00; lengths 40 to 50, extra, \$2 00; lengths 50 to 60, extra, \$4 00; 1½ lath, per M, \$2 25; 1¼ lath, per M, \$2 50.

COFFEE—Quote Salvador, 17c.; Costa Rica, 18@20c.; Rio, 18@20c.; Java, 27½c.; Arbuckle's roasted, 22c.

MEAT—Beef, wholesale, 2½@3c.; dressed, 6c.; sheep, 3c.; dressed, 6c.; hogs, dressed, 6½@7c.; veal, 5@7c.

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

PICKLES—Kegs quoted steady at \$1 35.

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

SUGAR—Prices for barrels; Golden C, 6½c.; extra C, 6c.; dry granulated 7½c.; crushed, fine crushed, cube and powdered, 7½c.; extra C, 6½c.; halves and boxes, 4c. higher.

Important mining operations are being carried on in the Arctic Circle. Cryolite is mined in Greenland and shipped to Philadelphia for making candles. Extensive copper mines have been worked for a long time in Finland.

John L. Sullivan is only twenty-nine years of age. It is said that he has made and spent \$300,000 in the last three years, and now, with an impaired constitution, and a weakened right arm, he once more faces the problem of life.

The Chinese frequently place little metal idols within the shells of mussels, removing them several years afterward covered with a substance resembling pearl; they also lay strings of small pearls separated by knots inside of the shells, and on taking them out, after a lapse of some years, obtain large and costly pearls.

The Steel Car Company is said to be constructing a fire-proof steel car at Boston, which will contain nothing that can burn except the upholstery, and even that is constructed of unflammable material. Not only immunity from fire, but an increase in strength, a decrease in the liability to telescope and diminish dead weight are expected to be some of the good features of the new car.

Still at Large.

Wm. Wilson, the gambler who killed Frank Robinson over a game of cards, at Los Angeles, Cal., is still at large.

IN THE ETERNAL CITY.

A Disappointed Tourist in Rome—The Roman and the Greek.

It was not unlike a shock of pain or disappointment when for the first time I threaded my way through the Roman streets, passed out into the Forum and wandered around the Coliseum. So dingy and denuded did the relics of old Rome appear to me that they were more like the few brown bones which the spade of the sexton has just thrown up by the side of a reopened grave. I have never seen a place where the remains were so few and the suggestions of what was lost were so many. Rome looked like a place which first had been a cradle and afterwards had been turned into a grave.

It seemed as if everything had been born there, everything had grown old there, everything had died there, and everything had been buried there. Rome is the city of the Holy Sepulchre. At Jerusalem pilgrims visit the spot where Christ was once laid. At Rome we seem to visit the shrine where old Time himself had been buried. Under this head I may briefly note down a few first impressions.

It was said that Augustus found Rome of brick and left it of marble. It might be added that the Goths, the popes and the nobles found Rome of marble and left it of brick, so completely have these despoiling powers peeled off the beautiful white flesh and left Rome like a body, brown, shapeless and divested of every trace of her former loveliness. But the Romans themselves prepared the way for this desolation. Their parsimony brought its own punishment. For parsimony, we must remember, is a sin followed up by its special retribution, quite as much as prodigality. The men of Rome—hath, practical and utilitarian—were as parsimonious in all works of art as they were shamefully extravagant in all pursuits of physical enjoyment. Even in the use of the cheap travertine stone they were ridiculously stingy. But when it came to marble they were by necessity as well as by nature most economical in the use of it. Athens had a whole mount of marble at her back door, and could have out of Pentelias all the shirines and statues she wanted. Rome had almost the same advantages; for it can hardly be urged as an apology for the city on the Tiber, that she was at a distance from the mountains of Luna and the great quarries of Carrara, when we remember that an easy waterway was ever open between the shores of Liguria and the foot of the Kalmit; and when we remember, moreover, how no obstacles were allowed to remain between the Roman and the object of his ambition or his appetite—both of which he was ready to gratify at an unbounded price.

But when it comes to works of taste the Roman betrayed his true nature. With him nothing was too much when lavished on bodily gratification, nothing was too little when spent on art. The Athenian built his temples worthy of the gods in solid blocks of marble, in unassured splendor, giving to the deities what cost him something. The Roman, when he came to raise his temples, was content to make them of brick or stucco or cheap stone, and then to sheathe these in a thin casing of marble. Where, therefore, the destroying hands of Goth or the Gothic hands of later Roman nobles, such as the Colonnas, the Farnese and the Borghese families, were laid upon the ancient edifices, it was an easy task, as well as a great temptation, to remove these light coats of marble and to invest their rising palaces with such apparel of many colors as the marbles of old Rome presented, ready made, to their rapacious hands. Had the men of Athens, and dedicated to their divinities a few sanctuaries of solid marble, they would have left behind them such monuments as would have defied the assaults of later generations, and would have commanded at this day the wonder of the world.

—H. Bernard Carpenter in Boston Globe.

The Journal of the Frontier.

In the early times, that is, half a century ago and more for the magnificent empire beyond the Alleghany mountains is the child of but two generations, the west, especially on the frontier, was the Mecca of two classes of men from the older sections of the country—the great army of hardy pioneers, who sought homes for their families, and the few being "off color" in the east, found residence more convenient in newly settled towns, where the people were too busy to care as much for the antecedents as for the presents acts of their neighbors. Among the latter were many of the so called "chryacters" who, rather than the average, every day citizen, made for the west its popular reputation, but not its real character.

Many of these restless, erratic geniuses drifted into journalism, and the frontier newspapers they made, often written and printed under great difficulties, possessed the merit of having at least a positive and unmistakable individuality. They were crude in style and in moral tone as well as in mechanical construction, it is true, for the picket line of civilization is not generally in its surroundings and associations favorable to the attainment of literary excellence or nice ethical distinctions, although some of the editors were men of good education; but the papers were made for a constituency that was as peculiar in its tastes as it was independent in its habits of thought, and cared less for the form than for the substance of what it read.

The frontier journal no longer exists, except at a few remote points in some of the territories to which the railroads have not as yet penetrated, but it has left its impress upon the character of its more mature and polished successors.—Z. L. White in Harper's Magazine.

Senator Ingalls is the thinnest man in congress.

Barney, of Georgia, is the heaviest man in congress.

Stewart, of Texas, is the tallest man in congress.

Senator Sawyer and Senator Stanford are the heaviest men in the senate. Together they would outweigh Salisbury, Spencer, Ingalls and Brown combined.

Gen. Wheeler, of Alabama, is the smallest, as well as the shortest, man, physically, in the house. He is a very little man, indeed, but he is an intellectual giant, not inferior to Alexander H. Stephens. Wheeler was a lieutenant general in the Confederate army when he was only 24 years old, and at one time he commanded the whole Confederate cavalry.