The Ways of the Whale

While the matter of whales is occupying the public mind a few facts in regard to this strange water animal may be most opportune. Authority for the statements made herein may be found in the works of W. A. Hornaday the naturalist.

The largest whale known to man is found in the Pacific between the line of Southern Oregon and Central America. This is the sulphur bottom whale which sometimes reaches a length of 95 feet. It is not as useful to man as the right whale of Greenland but for size it is the largest animal which as far as the records go, ever lived on the earth. The great extinct lizards or North America were not as large as this whale.

One specimen of the sulphur bottom whale killed was 95 feet long; length of jaw bone, 21 feet; girth 39 feet; length of longest whalebone 4 feet., weight of whalebone 800 lbs, weight of whole whale 294,000 lbs; barrels of oil 110; not a large quantity of oil.

From a bow head whale in the Atlantic, 65 feet long, 275 barrels of oil have been taken and 3,500 lbs of whalebone.

Roughly speaking, whales are divided in two great divisions, one with teeth andt he others not. In numbers the teeth class predominates although as the most of them are small, dolphins, porpoises, etc., their numbers are offset by the bulk of the other class. The sperm whale is the leading representative of the whales, supplied with teeth. This makes it the most dangerous of the animals the whalers seek to kill. The sperm whale will turn when attacked and large boats are sometimes crushed in its powerful jaws.

Sperm oil is taken from the head of the animal and is regarded as especially valuable although no great quantity is found in each animal.

Although in appearance like a fish the whale is a warm blooded animal.

It must come at intervals to the surface to breathe and its body is protected by a thick coat of fat or blubber which protects them the same as if a man had a coat of felt an inch thick under his skin.

They have no hair and the skin is as smooth as glass.

The teethless whales are known as baleen whales from the manner with which the mouth of the animal is equipped to secure its food. The baleen plates form the whalebone of commerce.

Although the largest of animals the baleen whales feed upon the smallest form of animal life—shrimp like crusticeans and swimming mollusks, (shell fish) which float in myriads near the surface of the sea.

To enable the monsters to feed upon these very minute organisms and secure them in a wholesale way the roof of the mouth is covered with two great masses of thin horny plates (of whalebone) set edgewise on each side and very close together. The lower edges of these plates are frayed into what looks like coarse, bristly hair and these frayed edges unite into a web of filament as long and as wide as the whole inside of the mouth.

In feeding the whale swims through a mass of floating pteropods with its mouth open and the fringe of the baleen hanging down to the sides of the lower jaw. This forms a perfect strainer for catching the smallest creatures afloat. The pteropods gather in a mass at the base of the tongue and presently are swallowed. When the mouth is shut the plates of baleen are folded within, diagonally.

The whale finds its food from 60 to 90 feet below the surface and at feeding time is comparitively easy to approach.

The young of whales is called a calf and is given suckle until it is able to get other food for itself. The mother is very solicitous for her offspring.

Seen at sea the whale has one of the characteristics of an ice berg in that the bulk of its proportions is under water Usually nothing is seen of but the top of its back and a spouting jet of steam. This last looks like water but is only the breathing of the whale. It is the expulsion of air after a long dive and is so saturated with moisture that it looks like a fountain of water.

When harpooned a whale sometimes descends 300 ft and lies in the muddy bottom of the sea. The comfortable time for a whale to stay under water is 15 minutes but in feeding it sometimes stays 25 minutes. When struck it will stay below as long as 50 minutes or an hour and 20 minutes.

Off Newfoundland there are stations where whales are towed after capture and where every part of the carcass is made use of.

The whales of the Pacific are the Sulphur bottom, previously described, the Pacific right whale found in the north Pacific, the California gray whale found from the Arctic circle to Southern California. This latter never exceeds 45 feet in length and is savage and dangerous.

No Parcels After Dec. 13

Under Present Boat Schedule, Kilburn On That Date Makes Last Trip North Before Christmas

Unless the steamship Breakwater is put on the run after the present trip of the Kilburn, there remains but one more chance for persons to get their Christmas parcel post packages away before the Breakwater comes. The latest date will probably be about December 13 and packages should be in Marshfield postoffice at least a day or two days before that time.

With only one boat on the run that carries mail, difficulty may be experienced getting Christmas gifts in and out of Coos Bay and in fact the entire county.

Now that the Kilburn is heading North, she will be unable to be back here from Portland before December 3 or 4 and it would take her ten days from this date, providing she is not barbound or delayed anywhere to get back. She would be unable to make another round trip then before Christmas.

Postmaster Hugh McLain is urging the people to get their Christmas packages away early and explains that the parcels may be marked plainly on the outside "Do Not Open Before Christmas." This provides for the holding of parcels that arrive before Santa Claus day to be held in abeyance, a waiting the Yuletide.

And again he asks that everything be tied up securely as there will be many packages in the mails at this time.

The same instructions issued from the postoffice would also hold true for the Wells Fargo express as this is taken out via the boats, though express shipments may be made either north or south, hence there would be a chance of shipment after December 13, even if the Breakwater does not come onto the run before that tiem

—Coos Bay Times

Ft. Worth, Tex.—As the trap was sprung at the execution of C. A. Myers, the hangman's noose completely severed the head from Meyer's body.

Stoughton, Wis.—Mrs. Sigrid Larson, 95 years old, talked for the first time over a telephone recently. Up to two months ago she was deaf, but her hearing was restored to her suddenly.

Though the Santa Clara wreck was "pirated" and later burned, there are dozens of loads of goods being daily dug out of the remaining portions of the hld and in the sand. Mr. Barker of the Simpson ranch took out a nice steel range which was uninjured-Coos Bay Harbor.

Mason City, Ia.—Thirty-two years old and married five times is the record of Ethel Wickes-Noble-Pump-Jurdy-Hughes, who is under arrest for bigamy.

Cupid carries a bow and arrows because he has no conveniences for carrying a gun.—Minot (N. D.) Optio-Reporter.

—WHO PAYS?—

Recorder Ruminations

The trick seems to be: how to raise public funds without any body feeling it? And to tell the truth it is not as easy a matter as appears on its face. A pickpocket might give expert testimony in the case.

Just about the time the hills and plains of the East become frost bitten and covered with snow the benches and slopes of this coast section of Oregon assume their winter greenness.

We are patiently waiting for some one to arise in meeting and suggest that the troubles of our marine transportation of late has been caused by the railroad company which is anxious to make a fine comparitive showing when it opens for business next year.

It isn't everybody that is willing to say a good word for Bandon besides the average tin horn boost which is barely worth the wind that it takes to produce it. But let this fact be placed to her credit: that in the face of lowering values and incomes she had the courage to raise her taxation for public school purposes.

Some of the C. B. pirates must opine that Santa Claus came into Coos this year with a disabled rudder. As for the rest of us, if he makes us the annual visit it looks as he would have to float in astride of a plank.

There is another alluring feature in this preparedness program for the administration. The tariff problem is allowed to take a back seat.

About the most important thing that should engage the attention of the next legislature is the problem of making the average real estate speculator pay his proportion of the taxes.

Now that we have duly expressed our thanks we can buckle down to the job of paying the freight by selecting Christmas gifts.

Every cent taken from the public schools would be doubled or trebbled in a reduction of property valuations in the city.

We are not making any bets as to which will be the first to reach Constantinople, Germany or the Allies but we will hazard the opinion that whichever does, will realize it has been somewhere.

Since Coquille has had a fling at the growing of maize, the carnival next year should not over look an exhibit of corn fed porkers.

A recent Oregonian has an item telling of the struggles of the keeper of three Gila monsters in the zoo of that city, trying to get them to hibernate properly, explains that as they come from south of the equator where the seasons are reversed they have a tendency to hibernate in the summer instead of the winter. The peculiar thing about the story is that the Gila monster comes from Arizona and derives its name from a river in that state If the keeper of the animal wishes to give it a home like feeling he should keep it in an oven.

The Work That Must Be Done

It's not the work you'd like to do,
The work that pleases most,
Or represents the best in you,
Of which you really boast;
It's work that's done from loyalty,
That means a triumph won;
And one's best work must ever be
The work that must be done.

For time and tide wait for no man,
And Duty's clarion call
Rings out; you do the best you can;
You give your heart and all;
Though oft the heart is full of tears,
And hidden be the sun,
The world will judge you, it appears
By work that must be done.

What though the tack heartbreaking be,
Or scarce seen worth the while?
The painted clown you sometimes see
Might reason in this style.
His sorrows—what are they to you?
His to provide the fun;
And thus he does, as you must do,
The work that must be done.

FIRST DISCOVERED GOLD

The historically important discovery of gold in California was made in January, 1848, at John Sutter's mill on South Fork of American River near Coloma, a point only 10 or 15 miles southeast of the town of Auburn. From 1850 to 1855 the greatest yield was derived from the gravels and the largest annual output for this period was more than $65,000,000 in 1852. There was some reaction in 1854, due eo previous wild speculation. but a production of about $50,000,000 a year chiefly from placer mines, was maintained up to 1861.

At first the gold was won chiefly from the gravels along the present streams. Those who first got possession of the rich bars on American Yuba, Feather and Stanislaus rivers and some of the smaller streams in the heart of the gold region made at times from $1,000 to $5,000 a day. In 1849 $500 to $700 a day, was not unusual luck; but, on the other hand, the income of the great majority of miners was for less than that of men who seriously devoted themselves to trade or even to common labor.

The gold pan, the "rocker", the "tom" the sluice and the hydraulic "giant" or "monitor', named in the order of increasing efficiency were the tools successively used by the miners. In the "rocker" and the "tom" the miner shoveled gravel or "dirt", rocking the machine as he poured in water and catching the gold, often with the aid of quicksilver, on riffles set across the bottom of his box. Sometimes a stream was diverted into a flume to lay bare the gravel in its bed so that the miner could get at it. In sluicing the gravel was showeled into a similar but much longer box through which a stream of water was allowed to run. The hydraulic gaint was employed to wash into long ffleset sluices immense quantities of gravel especially from the higher (Tertiary) deposits much of which was too lean to worl out by hand. Water was brought for many miles in ditches and flumes from the high Sierra and conducted under great head to a nozzle, from which it was projected with remendous force against the gravel. It was the vast quantity of refuse washed into the streams by these hydraulic operations that brought about the conflict beween mining and agricultural interests, finally decided in favor of he farmers. Of late years the gold obtained from quartz veins in California has exceeded that won by placer mining.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

You are hereby notified that all PERSONAL PROPERTY on which the taxes have not been paid for the year 1914 and prior, is subject to levy and sale as set forth in Section 2, Chapter 156 of the General Laws of the State of Oregon for the year 1915, (a synopsis of which is given below); and that said taxes will have to be paid at once, that to enforce this law will create considerable expense to the delinquent tax payer. We are therefore, giving public notice, in addition to the post cards previously sent out to each individual tax payer owing delinquent personal property tax, so that they may avoid this additional expense.

Section 2. That Section 3683 of Lord's Oregon Laws, as amended by Section 22 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws of Oregon for the year 1913 shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3683. On or as soon as practicable after the fifth day of October in each year, the tax collector shall proceed ti collect all taxes levied in his county upon personal property, which have not been paid before said day, together with interest and penalty after same has attached thereon. He shall levy upon sufficient goods and chattels, belonging to the person, firm corporation or association charged with such taxes, if the same can be found in the county, by taking them into his possession, to pay such delinquent taxes, together with interest, accruing interest, penalties and other lawful charges and shall immediately advertise such goods and chattels for sale by posting written or printed notices of the time and place of sale in three public places in the county not less than ten days prior to such sale, and if such taxes, interest and penalty shall not be paid before the time appointed for such sale, the tax collector shall proceed to sell such property at public vendue, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to pay such taxes, interest and penalties, and shall deliver to the purchaser thereof at such sale the property so sold to them respectively, and such sale shall be absolute. In like manner he shall levy upon and sell the goods and chattels of any person or persons removing from the county without paying all taxes charged against them.

—WHO PAYS?—