

The Observer.

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D. C. IRELAND, Editor.

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Cheer up. The cool days of September are not far away.

Evidently President Taft's opinion of hazing at West Point is not at all hazy.

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Orville Wright is in Berlin to make a series of flights before the Kaiser, who takes interest in aviation and is sometimes pretty flighty himself.

By undertaking to write another love story, Count Tolstoy seems to be disposed to justify all of the harsh things recently said of him by Roosevelt.

The death is reported of a Pendleton lawyer who secured hundreds of divorces for others and was married himself 11 times. But he won't be so fickle with death.

Walter Wellman is off for the north pole in his dirigible balloon, and several million people in the heated areas are thinking that maybe he is not so foolish after all.

A monument is proposed to the memory of Elias Howe, inventor of the sewing machine. It can not be said that the honor is undeserved or that the public has been super-hasty in bestowing it.

The National Irrigation congress at Seattle adopted resolutions approving the deep waterways in the Mississippi river region. The Mississippi region must respond with the proper irrigation resolutions at the first opportunity.

Wall street has experienced several spasms this month. Excitement was intense and stocks were thrown over at whatever prices they would bring. Aside from further rumors regarding the health of Mr. Harriman no news was offered to account for the sensational decline. Union Pacific was driven down 3/4 at the close of business.

Medical circles report that the new disease, pellagra, has greatly increased since its recent discovery. Which would be true of it if it had an entirely different name and an entirely different set of symptoms. Mind can make sick as readily as it can make well, and the discovery of a new complaint invariably sets to work a number of weak minds which have tried all the old ones.

He's a wellman yet, but his survival is one of deepest mystery. Walter Wellman's second attempt to sail over the north pole in a balloon resulted in failure on the 15th. The giant dirigible in which his party of three set out, proceeded about 32 miles from the starting point, when disaster overtook it. Wellman and his party succeeded in making safe landing and returned to Spitzbergen on board the steamer Fram, which also towed in the bursted balloon.

A well-known scientist is lecturing on the sun's heat, and in the course of his remarks said: "It is an established fact that the sun is gradually losing its heat, and in the course of some seventy millions of years it will be exhausted; consequently this world of ours will be dead, and like the moon, unable to support any form of life." At this juncture a member of his audience rose in an excited manner and said: "Pardon me professor, but how many years did you say it would be before this calamity overtakes us?" "Seventy millions, sir." "Thank God" was the reply. "I thought you said seven million."

WHY WE LIKE MR. PINCHOT.

The Observer does not admire Mr. Pinchot because of anything Mr. Roosevelt may have said; in fact it was Mr. Pinchot's "policy." Not the policy of Mr. Roosevelt. And it is just as good for the people of the United States should President Taft stand by it. We regret if Mr. Pinchot has displeased the administration. We hope not; for the sake of the administration.

Mr. Pinchot is, as most people know, the head, and one might almost say the creator, of the national forestry bureau. He is chairman of the national conservation commission.

It was his intimate influence over the mind of Roosevelt that brought about that historical meeting of the governors at the White House, which inaugurated the conservation movement.

He is a rich man, who hates luxury and soft-mindedness and "social advantages," and likes to live outdoors and deal with natural objects and make trees grow, and other things, for the good of his country.

His wholesome enthusiasm for genuine hard handed public service has been contagious in the departments and has created a new type of public man.

He is indispensable, and we submit that the president and the secretary of the Interior should try extra hard to agree with him in matters of his speciality.

On questions of forestry and water power the presumption is that Pinchot is right.

The speech made by him at the irrigation congress at Spokane may be all wrong. But if giving one's self wholly to one's work counts for anything, the burden of proving Mr. Pinchot wrong ought to lie on somebody else.

One of the last acts of the Roosevelt machine was the erection of a house covering 9 1/2 acres, at a cost of about \$3,500,000 to "put away" Roosevelt trophies. The building is now completed, perhaps awaiting the return of His Highness. The expenses of his trip have not yet been footed up.

At Oldtown, Me., a bolt of lightning struck the barn belonging to Mrs. Lucy A. Judkins, passed through the four sides, knocked down two men and three horses and then passed through the hay-mow without setting the building on fire. It was "a hot time in Oldtown" however.

It is claimed that by the coal land deal in Alaska the government is robbed of \$500,000,000. The average citizen is fast coming to the conclusion that officials who permit these wholesale robberies are either thieves or fools, and in either case fit to hold positions that political pull alone qualifies them for.

It is estimated that 70,000,000,000 cubic feet of water annually flow from the land surfaces of this country into the sea. Less than 1 per cent is retained and used for municipal needs; less than 2 per cent is utilized for irrigation; about 5 per cent is made useful for navigation and under 5 per cent develops power. From 85 to 95 per cent goes to the ocean in freshet floods.

The operations of the Guggenheims and J. P. Morgan and his associates in Alaska, with respect to coal lands and other mineral lands, should be thoroughly investigated, and if necessary and possible restricted. Resources of that territory have been subject to a good deal of corrupt exploitation, many federal officials sent up there have not been above suspicion, and it is quite time that the whole situation was probed into and disclosed. It is well enough to encourage great capitalists to invest up there, and develop the territory's resources, but acquisition of its coal lands by monopolistic syndicates should not be tolerated.

President Taft will be made the center of a big demonstration when he comes to Portland. There will be no private entertaining for the big President, but he will be on view by the public throughout his visit. There will be a big parade in the President's honor, in which he will ride, and where he may be seen by the thousands who will want to have a look at the nation's executive. President Taft will be asked to make an address at the banquet at the Commercial club at night. Sunday the President will probably attend church and spend the remainder of the day resting. Mayor Simon has named a prominent committee to arrange matters.

SOMETHING ABOUT-SMUTS.

The Observer likes to be criticized as to sentiments concerning matters of general importance. Smut, for instance, about a paragraph in the paper last week. We think just the same however, that certain oils used to lubricate machinery are responsible for more threshing machine fires than smut, and where investigation has been made in this matter, the views of The Observer appear to be sustained.

There are several well known kinds of smut, each of which is caused by a distinct species of the fungus. The greatest loss from smut in this country is from the sticking smut of wheat and the loose smut of oats. A considerable loss is also due to the loose smut of barley and wheat, which are more difficult to control and prevent.

They are widely distributed, and though they occur usually in small quantities the damage in the aggregate is large. They often are entirely unnoticed on account of their earliness and the absence of any conspicuous sign of them at harvest time. The sticking smut of wheat transforms only the kernels into smut balls which do not break until the wheat is threshed and often remain intact in the threshed grain.

The loose smut of barley, on the other hand, early discharge their spores, which are blown off by the wind as soon as the smutted heads come out of the leaf sheath; they infect the plant in the flowering stage and enter the embryo inside the ovary before the latter ripens into seed. An infected seed develops a smutted plant the following year. The most successful method thus far found for preventing these smuts is a hot water treatment of the seed. This treatment is described in Bureau of Plant Industry bulletin 152 entitled "The Loose Smuts of Barley and wheat," recently issued by the United States department of agriculture. The bulletin is a report of recent researches into the histories of these smuts and the determination of methods for their prevention.

"When you see it in The Observer it's so." And you never do see it until it is.

When President Taft makes his trip to the Pacific coast it will not be as the advance agent of General Prosperity, but as the star attraction.

Agricultural department reports indicate a yield of wheat this year not far from 433,000,000 bushels or about 4,000,000 less than the crop of last year.

After all, it is because; and the letters I H S on our piece of it were put there in Manila, and a wrecked galleon put it on Nehalem beach—500 or 600 years ago, perhaps.

Annie Besant looks for the early evolution of a third eye through which we will see all spiritual truth. If this makes it harder lines for seers with only two eyes, what will become of Annie's theosophy business?

The graft pie counter at Montreal has lined up for some big steals in city contracts. The investigation is not yet complete. It was begun at the instance of a citizen, who raised the necessary funds and employed counsel to conduct the case.

Baltimore is about to open its rest farm or fresh air home, for horses. The farm is under the management of the animal refuge association. Only the horses of cabmen and hucksters who are unable to care for their horses when they become ill, will be received at the farm.

Blood will tell. Corbett Lawyer a descendant of the first families of Nez Perces, full blood cousin of Queen Hassalo, could not stand the white man's prosperity. He has forsaken his opportunity, abandoned his wife by eloping with a wily, comely half-breed woman, leaving his accounts in such bad shape as to wind up the affairs of the First Indian Bank of Lapwai, and a collapse of worthy hopes of numerous friends.

The United States Revenue Marine steamer Tahoma, brings news from far away north Alaska that Dr. Waldemar, the Russian explorer, has discovered relics of a prehistoric age. Skeletons, etc. establish completely a belief that thousands of years ago the highest type of humanity in the New World existed in the latitude of the Aleutian archipelago. The search, directed by the Russian Geographical society, will be continued several years.

BILL-PORTER SIDE WIN OUT.

By a decision of the federal court at Portland Tuesday, the Oregon Trunk Line wins an upper hold of the Harriman DesChutes railroad by the aid of an injunction which prevents Harriman from molesting Hill at any point where the two roads have been disputing for equal rights. This gives the Hill interests a clear field, for a chance to build, but notwithstanding that fact it has been stated by the Hill people that if the Harriman people will agree to keep to the east bank of DesChutes river they will agree to keep to the west bank, and by so doing each can build all the railroad they want, without further need or danger of delay from the courts and the attorneys.

The main point at issue was that the surveys of the Oregon Trunk Line was made before the legal organization of that company. But the court held that Harriman could not make use of the question of either the organization or the survey of the Oregon Trunk Line, because the maps of the road have been accepted by the government, and no court can go further back in the records than that as to Hill's right to use DesChutes canyon.

The decision keeps in force the order that was granted August 9th protecting the Oregon Trunk Line in its work on the upper 60 miles of its survey. On this 60 miles the DesChutes Ry. Co. has never had any rights granted by the department of the Interior, although it had applied for approval of maps of survey on that part of the river. The court held that as the DesChutes Co. never began a survey on the 60 miles until after the Oregon Trunk had secured its rights, it was not entitled to trespass there. When suit was begun, application was made by the Oregon Trunk Line for an injunction restraining the opposition from trespassing on its rights of way.

This was granted by the court, with leave for the defendant to make a showing, if it could, that the injunction should be dissolved. This decision is to the effect that the showing made by the DesChutes Railroad was not sufficient.

It may be said in Thaw's favor that he never projected a north pole expedition.

Hot winds are now said to be threatening the consummation of a bumper corn crop in western and southwestern Kansas.

Inprisoned suffragettes in London refusing to eat, etc., are losing many valuable pounds of weight to hurl for the future against the political bulwarks of tyrant man.

McClure's, for September, tells how the inhabitants of England rid that country of flies, and do not now require screens at their houses. It is profitable reading for the dirty American people.

Forest fires in British Columbia, Idaho and Washington, are raging with all of their old time fury. Already more than \$2,000,000 worth of timber has been destroyed in Pend d'Oreille district, and a strip 60 miles long burned over in British Columbia. Many settlers have been driven from their homes, and the property loss, aside from the timber destroyed, is very great.

CANADIAN PACIFIC R. R. LANDS. Can There be any Better Investment Than First Class Farm Lands? Investors often do well buying city property, mining stock, timber land or by going into the mercantile business, but they must admit there is a certain amount of risk, but who can say there is any chance in buying good farm land under \$20.00 per acre. Land that will raise from 25 to 60 bushels of grain per acre as well as being adapted for growing all kinds of vegetables, fruit, berries and hay.

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The Pacific Northwest

CENTRAL OREGON.

Spokesman-Review: Six months ago it looked as if Harriman could not be coaxed or clubbed into building a railroad down through Central Oregon. Now his representatives declare their intention to build in there, even if they have to resort to violence against the Hill people. Those European waters must have braced up Harriman amazingly.

Condon Times: Sherman county has got the Eastern Oregon Dry Farming station and a \$20,000 farm will be purchased near Moro for this purpose. The state and federal government will expend \$5,000 a year for the maintenance of the station. There is little doubt that this is a move in the right direction and the benefit to Eastern Oregon will be great if the people will only pay attention to what takes place at the station and farm land accordingly.

Morning Oregonian: Whatever the legal technicalities in DesChutes canyon, there is no mistaking the popular preference in Oregon for Hill's project up that river, if there must be choice between the two. This sentiment is firmly rooted and the Harriman attorneys, who are putting up the able battle in court for their chief, probably know it. Both roads are wanted by the public, but if one of them is to be "shut out," there is a manifest popular desire that that one shall not be the Hill road. Perhaps, as numerous engineers tell us, "there is room for both;" and if so, that will suit the people of Oregon finely.

The Astorian: There was a lovely dance launched by the young people sojourning at Delmar beach on last Thursday evening which was hugely enjoyed by all hands. The affair was given in the old mission house; and a fine lunch was served by the genial host and hostess, after which everybody indulged in clam, and crab, and quadrille, prompted by Cyrus Hartman. The affair was one of the pleasantest of the season.

Capital Journal: Some one has suggested ex-Senator Fulton as governor of Oregon. The sense of humor in some folks is over developed.

Between high rolling fiscal kings, Harry Thaw's escapades, labor riot and Amazonian women, Pittsburg contrives to keep itself in the public eye—and nostrils.

The Local Churches. Baptist Church. Rev. J. C. Havner, of Grass valley will preach in Moro Baptist church Sunday next at 11 a. m. A general invitation is extended to all.

Moro M. E. Church. Sunday morning, August 29th, will be the last service of the conference year and you are all invited to attend. The pastor will speak from the subject "At the Beautiful Gate."

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