

The Coast Mail.

MARSHFIELD, OREGON.
Thursday, January 8, 1885

The writer of the "breakwater" twaddle in the Coquille Herald makes about as perfect an ass of himself as it is possible for him to do.

We surrender to the Portland pirates; but not unconditionally; only until we can meet them at closer quarters. Evidently they do not believe in a hereafter, but we do.

The tug boat Admiral exploded in New York harbor on the 31st ult.; just after she had let go of a barge. All portions of the tug above water were smashed into fragments and the hull sunk out of sight. Five persons were aboard the tug at the time, and the only traces of the victims found afterward were a battered hat and a boot containing a stocking and pieces of flesh, which were found on one side of the river, and on the other side a mangled corpse.

An exchange says there is a vast bed of rock salt in the Colorado desert, near Idaho, and the Southern Pacific railroad, in laying the track to the salt mine, has been obliged to grade the road for 1200 feet with blocks of beautiful lumps of salt crystals. This is the first instance of a railroad road bed being laid and ballasted with salt of which we have any knowledge. The sea that once rolled over this place dried up and left a vast bed of salt about 50 miles in length. The quality is superb and inexhaustible. Grasshoppers of enormous size and giant centipedes have been pickled and are to-day, after the lapse of centuries, in full size and perfection of shape.

The committees are making grand preparations for Cleveland's inauguration on the 4th of March. Pennsylvania avenue, from the capitol to the white house, will be cleared of all vehicles and obstructions, so that the procession may not be thrown into disorder. The inaugural ball will be a prominent feature of the occasion and it is expected to surpass anything of the kind ever attempted in this country. Work is progressing rapidly on the pension building, and the grand ball room will undoubtedly be completed in season. The court of this building, which will be roofed over to form a ball room, is 316 feet in length by 114 feet in width, surrounded by three tiers of corridors, 22 feet in width. The magnificent structure forms an opportunity for decoration of the most striking and elaborate description, which the committee guarantee shall be provided. It is estimated that 15,000 guests can be accommodated, but the number of tickets will be limited to 12,000. Quite a lively contest is in progress between the musical organizations of the country for the honor of furnishing music for the ball. Dodsworth's band of New York, the German orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Marine band of Washington City are the prominent competitors. The committee has practically decided to have three bands, one stationed in the center of the hall for dance music, and the others for promenade music.

Anything so sensitive as the break-water clique of Coos bay, must be very rotten. Any one who differs at all with the shiftless and slipshod management of the work is at once pounced upon by the chief and his satellites and denounced as opposed to the improvement. Capt. Littlefield acts as if he considers himself an autocrat and his acts entirely exempt from criticism. In this he is wrong, and the sooner he realizes the fact, the better it may be for him, if not for the public. In his epistle in the News of last week the captain challenges us to produce proof that the rock he is having dumped into the bay spreads any more than it would if dumped upon land from a height corresponding with the level of the car track above the sea bottom. We are not surprised at this from the captain; but it seems to us that any person of ordinary sense ought to understand that a swift current constantly running in or out must necessarily spread those small rocks to a vast extent at the base, if nothing more. If Capt. Littlefield's acts and works are so perfect that they will bear close inspection, why is it that he and his friends are so sensitive on the subject? We should think that he would court investigation, instead of trying to silence criticism. There may be nothing rotten about the disbursement of our meager appropriations, and then there may be. Powell and Littlefield ought to know. According to report, Littlefield has a loose way in taking vouchers; but as to the truth of the report we know nothing beyond one transaction in which we were interested. The captain contracted a bill of \$250 at this office, representing at the time that he would pay it from his private purse. Subsequently a gentleman came to us and paid the bill and requested the privilege of consolidating it with one of his own and vouching for the total at one time, in order to save trouble. We consented; but we do not to this day know whether the man vouched for \$250 or \$2500. He could have vouched for one sum as easily as the other. There is a right way and a wrong way of doing business, and it should never be too much trouble for a public servant to transact his business on the correct principle. Elsewhere in this paper will be found an article in regard to the improvement of the harbor at Wilmington, Cal., where the engineer declines to disburse \$50,000, for the reason that he believes a great deal of it would be wasted in the way that we think a great deal of the Coos bay money is wasted. We are decidedly in favor of the Coos bay improvement—everybody is in favor of it—and we favor larger appropriations and the employment of more men at suitable seasons and a more efficient man in charge.

The Chehalis Tragedy.

In commenting upon the Chehalis tragedy, an account of which is given elsewhere in this paper, the Oregonian says if it were nothing more than a fitful gust of ordinary lunacy, there would be little propriety in dwelling upon its awful details, and we should rather draw the veil of charitable silence over them. But when we are told that "the maniac was the leading medium of the neighborhood," who "has for some time been trying to fall under influence of an Indian chief's spirit," and that there were two judges and three women in the house at the time, besides the maniac's wife and two children, who refrained from interfering with his violent ravings because they "thought he was under the influence of an evil spirit, and would if let alone come out all right," and that they retired for the night under that cheerful belief, to awake in the morning and find that during their slumbers the house had been converted into a slaughter pen, we must conclude that there was a terrible potent and ghastly influence acting upon this family circle which must be held responsible for the deed. That influence was spiritualism. In thus characterizing a delusion which is held as a religion by many people, in whose minds it is associated with some of the most tender and appealing relations and aspirations of life, we do not forget that the adherents of other forms of religion have become insane, and done deeds of equal horror. James Freeman Clarke once preached a sermon on the text, "Possessed with a devil," the point of which was that many things, such as money, knowledge and religion are good when we possess them, but are demons when they possess us. It is characteristic of spiritualism that it possesses those who believe in it, that it holds them under a spell which they have not even the disposition to break. All the tests to which they are willing that it should be submitted, either to satisfy themselves or the incredulous of the reality of its so-called manifestations, require that the ordinary operations of the human reason should be suspended before they can be applied. In other words, the inquirer or investigator, as well as the convert, must surrender his reason as well as his faith before he can come into conditions favorable to the examination of evidence. The believer thus becomes by the operation of the conditions to which he submits the victim of his delusion to begin with, and all his subsequent devotion to the subject proceeds upon the same method. It is, therefore, in its very nature a delusion. It possesses its adherent instead of being possessed by him. As Clarke said in the sermon referred to, nothing of which this is true is a good, but always an evil. But spiritualism is perhaps the most fatal of all modern delusions in its effect upon its victims, and its wider influence upon society. In itself, perhaps, it should not be held solely accountable for the particular instances of madness developed under its influence, or the general blight which it spreads over the community where it holds sway. For like the germs of contagious disease, it finds its elect victims among a class of minds that would easily break down under the pressure of other exciting causes, or yield without breaking before the awful energy of physical and moral poisons. For such persons when exposed to the morbid fascinations of spiritualism there are but two safe courses to pursue, either to run away from it and let it entirely alone, or to tone up the mental and moral system by the stimulation of sensible diversions and appropriate work. If one dallies with it enough to submit to the conditions under which the tests are applied there is great danger that he will go over the brink and be lost. The Chehalis tragedy is doubtless justly attributed by the physician to delusory insanity, and while we do not mean to say, as we do not think, that all spiritualists are insane, we have no doubt that the insanity in this instance was the result of delusion; that it was the foregone conclusion of a voluntary surrender of the mind to false conditions of mental action, which are inevitably fatal in their results upon all minds whose powers of reaction have become enfeebled from any cause.

Applicable to Coos Bay.

[San Francisco Alta.]
There is an appropriation of \$50,000 waiting to be expended on the improvement of Wilmington harbor, but Chief Engineer Mendell does not deem it wise to spend it, because the sum is too small to do any good. The improvements at Wilmington have been in progress twelve years, and the cost of the operations, according to the Los Angeles Express, has been doubled by the stupidly desultory way in which they have been prosecuted. A small sum of money is appropriated each year and the waves are given the fairest opportunity to crumble the work away as fast as it is completed. The manner in which public money is squandered all over the United States on buildings and harbor improvements by appropriating it in dribbets is a crying shame. It is a robbery of the people, and the people have either too much weak good nature or too little intelligence to resent it. No individual or corporation would conduct such enterprises in the way the government does. No individual or corporation could do it without speedily going into bankruptcy. In the first place, by devoting 12 or 15 years to a work that ought to be finished in two or three, the cost of superintendence—the wages of engineers, architects, draughtsmen, foremen, clerks, etc.—is vastly increased, and in the second place, the ravages of the elements are peculiarly de-

structive while the work is in an unfinished and unprotected state. And, what makes this extravagance so much more provoking, is that it is committed in the name of economy. A public work, say a harbor improvement, is undertaken which will cost \$500,000. When the sum is reported in the estimates, the house cuts it down to \$50,000, and this achievement is boasted of as though it were a clear saving of \$450,000. But the original appropriation of \$50,000 is followed by others of similar small sums, until, in course of time, the whole thing costs a million, or twice as much as it ought. Where is the economy or the statesmanship in that transaction? There ought to be some method of voting the whole amount required for a given undertaking in a lump sum, allowing as long or short a time for its expenditure as may be judicious. A proposition of this kind is now pending for the improvement of Galveston harbor. Captain Eads proposes to make a ship channel at that city, at a cost of \$7,500,000. Of course the idea of voting away such an amount of money as that strikes the ordinary congressman with terror, though he would be quite ready to begin appropriating an equal sum in amounts of one or two hundred thousand dollars a year. Without knowing anything of the merits of the Galveston harbor improvement plan, the Alta is prepared to say that the demand for the whole amount needed at one time, strongly recommends it, in view of the wicked waste involved in following the other policy. Unless the country can get some statesmen at Washington capable of taking broader views of public affairs than its present bullet-headed representatives, it will become necessary to have all public buildings erected, and all river and harbor improvements prosecuted on the Eads plan.

Oregon and Washington Territory at New Orleans.

[New Orleans Times Democrat.]
State Commissioners Wilkins, Allen and Swash have upon exhibition a somewhat limited but complete representation of the varied natural resources of the far distant state where rolls the mighty Columbia. To reach New Orleans the exhibit has traveled a distance of 4000 miles, has passed through the Cascade, Coeur d'Alene, Pen d'Oreille, Bitter Root and the Rocky mountains; has crossed the Willamette, and for several hundred miles has skirted along the banks of the mighty Columbia, crossed the winding Snake, Clark's Fork, the Missouri, Mississippi, and hundreds of smaller streams, to be placed here as the products of a country that to three-fourths of the people in America is in imagination nothing more than the abode of Indians, wild animals, rugged mountains and deserts. The visitor imagining Oregon such a wilderness will be disappointed to see such magnificent vegetables, fruit, wheat and oats and the extensive family of cereals fully and creditably represented; for fruit it will surprise many, and its mineral specimens, although limited, indicate the richness of its mountain regions, with but a vague indication of the extent of its natural richness, that is at present only awaiting the assistance of capital. The finny tribe that inhabit its mountain streams and navigable rivers are on exhibition, preserved and looking as natural as when they sported themselves in their natural rendezvous. Grasses, both natural and tame, may be seen, and its timber, among the best for manufacturing purposes, are where the eye can judge and the individual inspect for himself. Oregon's display is worthy of the inspection of every visitor to the exposition, and has an additional attraction in the shape of a beautiful oil painting of Mount Hood, snow-capped and towering upward of 12,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Although one of the far-away territories, Washington is not behind any of her sisters in the character and extent of her exhibit. The collection of exhibits embraces vegetables of all kinds, including potatoes weighing from six to eight pounds, and squashes as heavy as 216 pounds. In minerals the exhibit is unusually fine, embracing copper ore equal to that of the Lake Superior mines, silver ore that runs from 70 to 80 per cent., and samples from her iron mountain. Washington's exhibits are arranged in the following departments: Fishery—Which shows the wonderful salmon of the Columbia river, candle fish, sardines and dried fish, with pictures illustrating the Indian method of catching salmon. Forestry—Which will embrace collections of trees 110 feet high before reaching the first limb; also a plank 6 feet wide and 24 feet long, sawed 40 feet from the base of the tree; 24 varieties of polished woods, and various specimens showing the wonderful lumber resources of Washington territory.

Silas Jones and James Church, of Stayton, Marion county, were caught by the storm on their mining claim near Elkhorn, on the north fork of the Santiam. They were short of provisions and walked six miles to the Capital mines, which camp they found deserted. Here they remained five days in a famishing condition, and finally in desperation killed and ate their dog. Church, who was the stronger of the two, then started for home, another six miles, a good portion of which he crawled on his knees and elbows, as his feet and hands were frozen. He was 23 hours going the six miles. A rescue party was at once organized to go to the relief of Jones, whom they found covered up with some old gunnysacks in a shed, and insensible from cold and hunger. His limbs were also badly frozen, and both men may yet be obliged to suffer amputation.

AN INSANE SACRIFICE.

Terrible Tragedy Near Chehalis, Washington Territory.

CHEHALIS, W. T., Dec. 29.—This town was this morning the scene of one of the most shocking tragedies that ever occurred in the territory. William Pearson, while visiting at the house of his father-in-law, Judge Dillinbaugh, killed his child and then cut his own throat, after first persuading his wife to do the same. The particulars, briefly told, are as follows: During the night Pearson had a fit, which left his mind in a state of melancholy and madness. He imagined that some power was directing him to offer his child as a sacrifice, which he finally did, accomplishing the deed with some heavy instrument, crushing the little one's skull in a frightful manner. He then called in his wife, and showed her the fearful accomplishment of his insane idea. The unfortunate mother was so horrified and grieved at the sight of her dead child that her mind must also have become unbalanced, for she cut her own throat, at the suggestion of her husband, he agreeing to follow her example. Pearson then seized the bloody knife from his wife's hand and completed the terrible tragedy by cutting his own throat. When the two were found this morning they were almost dead. A physician was hurriedly summoned, but it is thought that the injured man and wife are beyond recovery. It is needless to add that the shocking affair created intense excitement. All the parties are well known, and relatives and friends of the family are horrified and dazed with grief. Many attribute the rash deed to the strong faith the parties had in spiritism.

CHEHALIS, Dec. 30.—The Oregonian correspondent to-day gleaned the following facts in relation to the appalling tragedy that occurred here yesterday. It seems that the Pearsons and the Dillinbaughs are spiritualists, and that Pearson, who was a member of the A. B. Billington lodge for some time, had been trying to induce under the influence of an Indian chief's spirit, and that while in a trance he could talk the pure Comoliz language.

Young Pearson and family had retired, on the evening in question, and about 9 o'clock a scream was heard in their room, and Dillinbaugh rushed in to see what was the matter. Pearson was lying on the floor and raving like a maniac. Using some vile oaths, he ordered the old man to walk around the room a number of times, and then said:

"You G-d J-d old white-livered s-n of a b-h! get out of here and send in that other s-n of a b-h of a Dillinbaugh, or I'll cut your heart out and hang it to a pole."

This performance was kept up for several hours, each of the men taking turns at bowing before the crazy man.

Pearson has two children, one a babe, and the other a 2-year old, little Edith. During the attack the children had been taken from the room, but the crazy man had ordered Edith brought back.

The last time any of the family were in Pearson's room he was lying on the floor, with the little 2-year-old in his arms. This was about midnight. At one time in the night the father was heard to speak to the child very kindly, and it was supposed that he had quieted down. At another time the child was heard to fret some, and the father to say, "Hush up, now." It is supposed that this was when the child was killed.

When the folks went to the room in the morning they were horror stricken at finding the child dead, and William Pearson and wife lying in the bed with their throats cut. Dr. J. S. Herndon was sent for, and arrived about 9 a. m. The bed was a pool of blood, and the husband, wife and child presented a horrible spectacle. Pearson and wife were weak from loss of blood and were unable to move.

Their wounds were dressed, and when strong enough to converse they told the story of how and why the deed was done. Pearson claimed that a spirit had told him to kill the child, and then he told his wife that the little thing was gone, and that they might as well go, too. He then cut his wife's throat several times, and then cut his own.

When questioned as to why she did not call for help, Mrs. Pearson said that she was afraid to cry out, and that he would not let her. Her throat was cut in five places. Her mouth shows the print of Pearson's hand, and that he had held her mouth shut to keep her from raising an alarm. The "Adam's apple" is entirely cut off, the wind pipe cut in two, and a great piece of flesh cut from her throat. There are hopes of her recovery.

Pearson's throat is not so badly cut, and there is no doubt but what he will recover if kept quiet. At times he is rational, but the most of the time he is a raving maniac. He will be taken to the asylum to-day. He imagines he is Jesus Christ, and that all must obey him; that he will destroy all who refuse to obey him.

There was no family trouble to cause this terrible tragedy, and the physician pronounces it delusory insanity. During this performance of the insane man, there were in the house, besides Pearson and wife and two children, Judge Dillinbaugh, wife and two grown daughters, and Judge Pearson. When asked why they did not bind the insane man and prevent his doing damage, they answered that they were afraid to do anything; that they thought he was under the influence of an evil spirit, and would, if let alone, come out all right.

Upon examination, it was found that the child was killed with a stick of stove wood. A great bruise appears over the heart, showing that the mad man had taken the stick in his hand and pressed

the end of it against the ribs and broke them, and then struck the child over the head, crushing the skull.

The affair has been a severe shock to the community, as all concerned are old residents of the county, and well and favorably known. Judge Dillinbaugh is the present county judge, and Judge Pearson the ex-judge. The man who committed the deed is a son of Judge Pearson. The maniac was the leading medium of the neighborhood.

An Excellent Browse.

[Southwest Oregon Recorder.]
The dwarf sallal which abounds up here on all kinds of ground, good, bad and indifferent, in highlands and low, is by no means the nuisance it has by many been regarded. Cattle resort to it as a desert, we presume, while horses nibble at the tenderer branches, though they find the bush surrounded by abundant grass, and sheep seem particularly fond of it, to vary their daily rations upon. It is said that sheep will subsist almost wholly upon it if allowed a wide range. And it is a persistent grower, the species we have reference to seldom getting taller than about ten inches. This browse produces an annual crop of berries, lying close to the ground, which are possibly relished, as well as its evergreen foliage, by the stock. We are told that elk, in early times, when driven from the high levels by snow, took themselves to the flats and dwelt altogether upon dwarf sallal, and it is proper to add that the natural browser, preferring yellow pines and buds to grass, by clearing all out this singular plant by eating the over the ground in early spring seems only to improve it, as it grows up during the summer, fresh and vigorous; and, being of an oily substance, it burns readily when surrounded by sufficient dry grass and weeds to start a blaze through it.

Superintendent A. N. Towne of the Coos Bay pier, after a long and arduous search for a suitable site for a pier, has selected the site at the mouth of the Columbia, and the pier will be opened on the 20th inst. The proposals for furnishing four stone barges, and a pile trestle and wharf at Fort Stevens, will be opened on the 15th. It is stated that active construction of this work will begin at the earliest practicable moment.

Last week the steamer ship Snow and Burgess, from Coos Bay, from Port Blakely, W. T., was the first steamer of Oregon since 1850, and the first planks at New York. This is the first time such a cargo was sent to that port.

Special Notice.

All notes and accounts in favor of H. P. WHITNEY are left in my hands, and all persons interested are requested to call and settle the same. In case this notice fails to accomplish its object, I am directed to place the notes, as they become due, in the hands of an attorney for collection. EDGEE O'CONNELL, Marshfield, December 18, 1884.

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Coal delivered in any part of town, in large or small quantities, to suit purchasers, at reasonable rates. Parties will find it to their advantage to deal with us. ROBT. A. CHURCH, WALTER W. DUGGAN.

For Sale.
The Jones house and lot in Bay City. For further particulars inquire of SMITH, the Milkman.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Executors Notice.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned was on the 7th day of January, A. D. 1885, duly appointed executor of the estate of EMMA M. WINCHESTER, deceased, and that all persons having claims against the said estate are required to present them, with the proper vouchers, within six months from the date of this notice to said executor, at my office, in the town of Marshfield, Coos county, Oregon.

CHARLES W. TOWER, Executor estate Emma M. Winchester, deceased. Dated January 8, 1885. j30 6w

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