

CLIMBING THE POLE

BY JULES VERNE.

CHAPTER XII.—(Continued.)

All, except Hatteras, and why could this extraordinary man not sleep like the others? He grew more and more excited, and it was not the thought of returning that so affected him.

Whatever might be the cause, he could not sleep; yet this first night at the pole was clear and calm. The ice was absolutely uninhabited—not a bird, nor an animal, nor a fish.

Next morning when Altamont and the others awoke, Hatteras was gone. Feeling uneasy at his absence, they hurried out of the grotto in search of him. There he was standing on a rock, gazing fixedly at the top of the mountain. His instruments were in his hand.

Presently Hatteras said, in a hurried, agitated manner, as if he could scarcely command himself:

"Friends, listen to me. We have done much already, but much yet remains to be done."

"We are close to the pole, but we are not on it."

"We are still 45 minutes latitude from the unknown point," resumed Hatteras, with increased animation, "and to that point I shall go."

"But it is on the summit of the volcano," said the doctor.

"I shall go."

The tone of absolute determination in which Hatteras pronounced these words it is impossible to describe. His friends were stupefied, and gazed in terror at the blazing mountain.

"Very well," he said, finally, "since you are bent on it, we'll go, too."

CHAPTER XIII.

It was about 8 o'clock when they commenced their difficult ascent; the sky was splendid, and the thermometer stood at 52 degrees.

Hatteras and his dog went first, closely followed by the others.

As they got higher, the ascent became more and more difficult, for the flanks of the mountain were almost perpendicular, and it required the utmost care to keep from falling. Clouds of ashes whirled round them repeatedly, and the torrents of lava barred their passage.

Hatteras, however, climbed up the steepest ascents with surprising agility, disdaining the help of his staff.

He arrived before long at a circular rock, a sort of plateau about ten feet wide, the river of boiling lava surrounded it, except in one part, where it forked away to a higher rock, leaving a narrow passage, through which Hatteras fearlessly passed.

Here he stopped, and his companions managed to follow him. He seemed to be measuring with his eye the distance he had yet to get over. Horizontally, he was not more than 200 yards from the top of the crater, but vertically he had nearly three times that distance to travel.

"Hatteras," said the doctor, "it is enough; we cannot go further!"

"Stop, then," he replied, in a strangely altered voice; "I am going higher."

He had hardly uttered the words before Hatteras, by a superhuman effort, sprang over the boiling lava, and was beyond the reach of his companions.

A cry of horror burst from every lip, for they thought the poor captain must have perished in that fiery gulf; but there he was safe on the other side, accompanied by his faithful Duke who would not leave him.

He speedily disappeared behind a curtain of smoke, and they heard his voice growing fainter in the distance, shouting:

"To the north! to the north! to the top of Mount Hatteras! Remember, Mount Hatteras!"

All pursuit of him was out of the question.

At intervals, however, a glimpse of the mountain could be caught through the clouds of smoke and showers of ashes. Hatteras did not even turn once to look back, but marched straight on, carrying his country's flag attached to his staff.

At last he reached the summit of the mountain, the apex of the infatuated man would stop, at any rate, and would, perhaps, recover his senses, and expose himself to no more danger than the descent involved.

Once more he shouted:

"Hatteras! Hatteras!"

There was such a pathos of entreaty in his tone that Altamont felt moved to his inmost soul.

"I'll save him yet!" he exclaimed; and before Clawbonny could hinder him, he had cleared with a bound the torrent of fire, and was out of sight among the rocks.

Meantime, Hatteras had mounted a rock which overhung the crater, and stood waving his flag amidst showers of stones which rained down on him. Duke was by his side; but the poor beast was growing dizzy in such close proximity to the abyss.

Hatteras balanced his staff with one hand, and with the other sought to find the precise mathematical point where all the meridians of the globe meet, the point on which it was his sublime purpose to plant his foot.

All at once the rock gave way, and he disappeared. A cry of horror broke from his companions, and rang to the top of the mountain. Clawbonny thought his friend had perished, and lay buried forever in the depths of the volcano. A second—only a second, though it seemed an age—elapsed, and there was Altamont and the dog holding the ill-fated Hatteras! Man and dog had caught him at the very moment when he disappeared in the abyss.

Hatteras was saved! Saved in spite of himself; and half an hour later he lay unconscious in the arms of his despairing companions.

When he came to himself, the doctor looked at him in speechless anguish, for there was no glance of recognition in his eye. It was the eye of a blind man, who gazes without seeing.

"Good heavens!" exclaimed Johnson, "he is blind!"

"No!" replied Clawbonny, "no! My poor friends, we have only saved the body of Hatteras; his soul is left behind on the top of the volcano. His reason is gone!"

Three hours after the whole party were back once more in the grotto.

"Well, friends," said the doctor, "we cannot stay longer in this island; the sea is open, and we have enough provisions. We ought to start at once, and get back without the least delay to

Fort Providence, where we must winter."

The day passed in profound dejection. The insanity of the captain was a bad omen, and when they began to talk over the return voyage, their hearts failed them for fear. They missed the intrepid spirit of their leader.

Next morning they made all ready to sail, and brought the tent and all its belongings on board.

But before leaving these rocks, never to return, the doctor, carrying out the intentions of Hatteras, had a cairn erected on the very spot where the poor fellow had jumped ashore. It was made of great blocks placed one on the top of the other, so as to be a landmark perfectly visible while the eruptions of the volcano left it undisturbed. On one of the side stones, Bell chiseled the simple inscription:

JOHN HATTERAS.

The duplicate of the document attesting the discovery of the north pole was enclosed in a tinued iron cylinder, and deposited in the cairn, to remain a silent witness among those desert rocks.

This done, the four men and the captain, a poor body without a soul, set out on the return voyage.

On the 15th they sighted Altamont harbor, but as the sea was open all along the coast, they determined to go round to Victoria bay by water, instead of crossing New America in the sledge.

As the sloop made Victoria bay they all hastened to Fort Providence. But what a scene of devastation met their eyes! Doctor's house, stores, powder magazine, fortifications, all had melted away, and the provisions had been ransacked by devouring animals.

After a thorough search, a few cases of pemmican were found scattered here and there, and two barrels of preserved meat, altogether enough for six weeks, and a good supply of powder. It was soon collected and brought on board.

At last, after thirty days tolerably quick sailing, and after battling for forty-eight hours against the increasing drift ice, and ridding the trail sloop a hundred times, the navigators saw themselves blocked in on all sides.

Altamont made a reckoning with scrupulous precision, and found they were in 77 degrees 15 minutes latitude and 85 degrees 15 minutes longitude.

"This is our exact position, then," said the doctor. "We are in South Lincoln, just at Cape Eden, and are entering Jones sound. With a little more good luck we should have found our water right to Baffin bay."

"I suppose, then," said Altamont, "our only course is to leave the sloop, and get by sledge to the east coast of Lincoln."

The sloop was unloaded and the sledge put together again. At last, on the 24th, they set foot on North Devon.

It was not till the 30th of August that they emerged from those wild mountains into a plain, which seemed to have been upturned and convulsed by volcanic action at some distant period.

Altamont, who had displayed great unselfishness and devotion to the others, roused his sinking energies, and made a spectacle meet his gaze! Dead bodies, already stiff, lay half buried in a winding sheet of snow.

It was evident this ravine had been but recently the scene of a fearful struggle, that the poor wretches had been feeding on human flesh, perhaps while still warm. And among them the doctor recognized Shandon, Pen and others of the ill-fated crew of the *Forward*!

"Come away! come away!" cried the doctor, dragging his companions from the scene. Horror gave them momentary strength, and they resumed their march without stopping a minute longer.

Even the men themselves were never able to give any definite narrative of the events which occurred during the next week. However, on the 9th of September, by superhuman exertions, they arrived at last at Cape Horburg, the extreme point of North Devon.

They were on the short of Baffin bay, now half frozen over; that is to say, on the road to Europe, and three miles off the waves were dashing noiselessly on the sharp edges of the ice-field.

Here they must wait their chance of a whaler appearing; and for how long? But heaven pitied the poor fellows, for the very next day Altamont perceived a sail on the horizon.

Just then a happy inspiration came to the doctor. His fertile genius, which has served him many a time in such good stead, supplied him with one last idea.

A floe, driven by the current, struck exclaimed, pointing to it:

"His companions could not understand what he meant.

"Let us embark on it! let us embark on it!"

Hell, assisted by Altamont, hurried to the sledge, and brought back one of the poles, which he stuck fast on the ice like a mast, and fastened it with ropes. The tent was torn up to furnish a sail, and as soon as the frail craft was ready the poor fellows jumped upon it, and sailed out to the open sea.

Two hours later the survivors of the *Forward* were picked up by the Hans Christian, a Danish whaler, on her way to Davis straits.

Ten days afterward, Clawbonny, Johnson, Bell, Altamont and Captain

Hatteras landed at Korsang, in Zealand, an island belonging to Denmark. They took the steamer to Kiel, and from there proceeded by Altona and Hamburg to London, where they arrived on the 13th of the same month, scarcely recovered after their long sufferings.

The first care of Clawbonny was to request the Royal Geographical Society to receive a communication from him. One can imagine the astonishment of the learned assembly and the enthusiastic applause when he read Hatteras' document.

The doctor and his companions had the honor of being presented to the queen by the lord chancellor, and they were feted and "honored" in all quarters.

The government confirmed the names of "Queen's Island," "Mount Hatteras" and "Altamont Harbor."

The insanity of Capt Hatteras was of a mild type, and he lived quietly at Sten, cottage, a private asylum near Liverpool, where the doctor himself had placed him. He never spoke, and understood nothing that was said to him; reason and speech had fled together. The only tie that connected him with the outside world was his friendship for Duke, who was allowed to remain with him.

For a considerable time the captain had been in the habit of walking in the garden for hours, accompanied by his faithful dog, who watched him with sad, watchful eyes, but his promenade was always in one direction in a particular part of the garden. When he got to the end of this path he would stop and begin to walk backwards. If anyone stopped him he would point with his finger towards a certain part of the sky, but let anyone attempt to turn him round, and he became as wild as Duke, as if sharing his master's sentiments, would bark furiously.

The doctor, who often visited his afflicted friend, noticed this strange proceeding one day, and soon understood the reason for it. He saw how it was that he paced so constantly in a given direction, as if under the influence of some magnetic force.

This was the secret: John Hatteras invariably walked towards the north.

(The end.)

AMT PLAGUE IN NEBRASKA.

Kansas Also Suffers from Mound-Building Prairie Insects.

The professors at the Kansas and Nebraska agricultural schools have been puzzling their wits over the problem of finding some way of ridding the alfalfa country of what they call the mound building prairie ant, according to the New York Sun's Lincoln (Neb.) correspondent.

The prairie ant sustains all the traditions of the country in being a husky and combative chap. He has been out on the plains for years, but wisely chose his early habitations far from where the men lived. Now that the farmers have become numerous they find him troublesome.

The ant isn't so very large, but he is pugnacious. Any toppling over of his habitation, the walking over it or the tearing up of it is the signal for a horde of insects to come rushing out ready for battle. They fight Indian fashion, every individual soldier picking out an antagonist and going for him. No matter what they setze upon, hair, clothing or skin, they hang on by their mandibles while their busy bodies are engaged in stinging. They secrete a poison that is as effective in insects as anything the wasp or bumblebee has.

While never running away from a fight, the ant cannot be said to be peevish about hunting it. In his building operations he takes care to give full warning that he is on the job or living there. He first clears a large circular space about the proposed mound, removing all vegetation. Then he puts his dwelling in the exact center of the clearing. The mound itself is generally elliptical at the base, but sometimes circular. The mounds range in size from two to six feet in diameter and vary in height from a few inches to several feet.

Some marvelous feats in building are performed by these ants. The top of the mound is composed of a coarse gravel or shale or some rough material set at hand. Under this is a rainproof roof, made of particles of soil cemented together, the cement being furnished by the secretions of the body.

Beneath this is the myriad little round chambers wherein they live, rear their young and store their food. About a third of the way to the top are the openings, few in number, through which the workers pass. These are closed when the working day is over or a storm threatens.

The females do most of the fighting because they have the larger mandibles and the bigger stings. The scientists say there are three classes of ants, male, fertile females and sterile females, and the latter are the workers of the colonies. The only way the experts have discovered to hurt the ants is to give carbon bisulphide evaporated in a zinc tube made airtight by being packed around with soil. This is placed over the openings in the mound, the vapor being heavier than air descends and the ants at home are suffocated.

Epigram Criminal Code.

Procrastination is the thief of time. Curiosity is the porch climber of society.

The past is the hold-up man of ambition.

Good-fellowship is the firebug of sobriety.

Conscience is the sneak thief of contentment.

The bore is the pickpocket of patience.

The college boy is the checkkiter of humor.

The firecracker is the pirate of peace.

The Welsh rabbit is the ghoul of sleep.

Hard luck is the shoplifter of hope.

Bad cooking is the sandbagger of civility.—Puck.

The Mustang.

What is known as the California horse or mustang is in his ancestry and essential qualities an Arab.

Wire Hatpins.

The wire hairpins were first made in 1848 in England. Prior to that wood-skewers were used.

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

General Resume of Important Events Presented in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

W. J. Bryan called on President Taft.

Bryan approves of the Postal Savings bank bill.

Wet snow is crushing trees and telephone and telegraph wires in Ohio.

The newly elected Socialist administration has taken office in Milwaukee.

The Colorado Conservation commission has turned down the Pinchot policy and declared for state control of water.

The present condition and future prospects of the Harriman lines never better, according to the traffic manager.

At a gambling house raid in Seattle over 100 men were arrested, \$300 confiscated and a carload of furniture and gambling devices captured.

Circuit court in Portland adjourned Tuesday "because of recent deaths in families of litigants," but everybody went to the opening ball game.

Over 12,000 enthusiasts saw the opening game of baseball at Portland between the home team and Oakland, the latter being shut out 2 to 0.

At the Drexel-Gould wedding in New York the police were obliged to eject women from the church to prevent them from tearing down the decorations for souvenirs.

An ordinance has been introduced in the city council of Boulder, Colo., making it unlawful for women to wear skirts that sweep the sidewalks or trail in the dust of the street.

An earth slide buried a work train and 25 men near St. Alphonse, Quebec, and nearly all were killed.

W. J. Bryan has returned to New York from South America, where he has been studying sociological conditions.

The condition of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) is slightly improved, but still serious. Heart trouble is the cause.

A stenographer who wrote letters for Roosevelt in Naples says he expects to be the next president of the United States.

The books of the United States Steel corporation were thrown open to the public and show that the largest stockholders are Hollanders.

American workmen have been shut out of the works of the Pressed Steel Car company at Schoenville, Pa., and serious trouble is imminent.

With banners aloft, fiery af flutter, and occupying a procession of taxicabs nearly a mile long, the suffragists in convention in Washington, D. C., moved on Capitol Hill and presented to congress 400,000 individual demands for votes for women.

Not a dynamite cracker nor a cap pistol nor a "snake in the grass" will be sold in Washington, D. C., the coming Fourth. Instead, there will be band concerts, athletic contests, boat races and all kinds of outdoor sports, while the citizens' committee sets off the fireworks.

A workman at the new Mt. Tabor reservoir in Portland attempted to replace a driving chain on a concrete mixer which had jumped off the sprocket wheel, when his clothing caught in the cogs and his arm was drawn in and crushed. A fellow workman cut the mangled flesh loose with his jack-knife while others supported the suffering victim, who was then rushed to a hospital on the opposite side of town, nearly five miles.

Three men robbed a California train and then escaped in a launch on Suisun bay.

An Oklahoma farmer was swindled out of \$2,000 on a fake horse race at San Francisco.

President Taft is confident that the \$30,000,000 irrigation bill will pass both houses.

It is reported from many cities that moving picture shows are seriously interfering with the saloon business.

A fierce wind storm in Southern states cost 17 lives and property damage amounting to many hundred thousands.

President Taft, speaking at a banquet in Washington, said one term as president of the United States is enough.

The Supreme court of Louisiana has been called upon to define "what is a negro," and the decision is being waited for with great interest by many states.

A 685-pound woman has been jailed in San Francisco for exhibiting herself as a freak.

A woman in Snyder, Texas, started the fire with coal oil, and she and her infant daughter and 14-year old sister were burned to death by the explosion which followed.

Passengers and crew of the steamer Santa Clara, wrecked off the California coast, were all saved, and the steamer herself has been pulled off the rocks and is being towed into port.

The wife of a prominent coffee merchant at Los Angeles has finally been recognized as the "mysterious girl at the ringside" who has attended many prizefights in that city, disguised in men's clothing.

A Kansas tornado swept a creek dry for nearly a mile, tore up telephone poles and carried a cow and calf 200 yards.

A mission at Chungsha, China, was destroyed by rioters because Chinese officials had cornered the rice supply for export.

HARRIMAN LINES PROSPEROUS

Train Service is Improved and Equipment Added.

Chicago, April 20.—"There never was a time when the Harriman lines were in better condition physically or when they had better prospects," said J. C. Stubbs, vice president and traffic director of the Harriman system today. "They are ordering new equipment, increasing the train service and facilities everywhere and give promise of continuing the improvements."

Mr. Stubbs has just returned to Chicago from a five weeks' inspection tour over the entire system in the United States and in Mexico.

"Double tracking on the Union Pacific is being pushed as rapidly as possible, and as soon as the work can be accomplished the entire line from Omaha to Ogden will have two tracks. Roundly speaking, 500 miles of the 1,000 have been finished, and the entire line from Omaha to San Francisco is now protected by block signals. It is probable that the San Pedro line will be open for traffic much earlier than June 1."

COLORADO COUNCIL TO REGULATE SKIRTS

Boulder, Colo., April 20.—An ordinance to prohibit the wearing of long dresses on the streets of Boulder was introduced in the city council last night. It provides that "it shall be unlawful for any person whose wearing apparel or skirt shall be of such length as to trail upon the ground and become a dust sweeper or otherwise obnoxious to the public health and good taste, to appear upon any sidewalk in this city."

The document is entitled "An ordinance to promote public health and concerning displays upon the sidewalks which was interpreted by one alderman to mean that "if the council intended to define the length of skirts one way it must also define it the other way." The ordinance was urged by the Women's club.

OLD BUDGET INTRODUCED.

Lloyd-George Comments Upon Decrease in Whisky Consumption.

London, April 20.—David Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, re-introduced last year's budget in the house of commons today. He declared that he realized that the present deficit of \$131,240,000 would be more than wiped out when all arrears had been collected and that there would be an actual surplus of \$14,800,000.

If the budget had been passed as usual last year, he said, there would have been a surplus of \$21,000,000.

The chancellor commented upon the remarkable decrease of 32 per cent in the consumption of whiskey, a decrease that he attributed mainly to the extra duty imposed. The loss in the revenue from spirits, as compared with the estimated figures, was \$14,000,000.

WAR DEPARTMENT REFUSES TO HEED PRAYER OF DWELLERS IN LANE.

Washington.—The war department has definitely refused to assist in preventing the washing away of the banks of the Willamette between Eugene and Harrisburg. Citizens, through Senator Chamberlain, asked the department to do this in the dikes that caused the higher water which had caused great destruction upon adjoining lands at each freshet time.

Chief of Engineers Marshall referred the matter to Major McIndoe, at Portland, who upon examination reports: "Caving in was in progress before the dikes were built and in our opinion the dikes are not responsible primarily for such caving in. The project to prevent it would be enormously expensive and not justified by the needs of navigation on the river. Work done for that purpose would be solely for the protection of private property and is therefore not recommended."

PLAN MODEL DAIRY FOR KLAMATH.

Klamath Falls.—Klamath county is to have one of the finest dairy ranches in Oregon, according to the plans of John Ellis and W. L. Albright. It is to be located in the big Albright-Ellis ranch, about seven miles from Fort Klamath. When the ranch is in readiness to receive the herd, Mr. Ellis will go to the middle west, where he will select the stock that is to compose it. He has decided on the purchase of Guernseys and Holsteins, believing that these will best meet the conditions of climate and the demands of the markets.

FIRE DESTROYS MUCH TIMBER.

Salem.—Printed proceedings of the February meeting of the state board of forestry are now ready for distribution. They give reports of damage done to the forests in the state by fire during the summer of 1909. In this connection the report of the secretary shows that there were 413 fires, burning over an area of 61,037 acres, and a total of 191,213,500 feet, board measure, of merchantable timber was destroyed. If this timber had been manufactured into lumber it would have represented an approximate value of \$2,485,770.

LAND OFFICE AT VALE.

Vale.—Bruce R. Kester, an agent of the government, is in Vale for the purpose of recommending a suitable location for the land office, which will be opened here in accordance with the recent act of congress creating a new land district, with the office at Vale. It is not the intention of the government to erect a building, but to lease a portion of a building, which will accommodate the offices and equipment for the new office.

COMPLAINTS OF SHIPMENT.

Salem.—H. Grebe, of Portland, has filed a complaint with the railroad commission, in which he sets forth that a large consignment of seed peas shipped from Pullman, Wash., to Condon, Or., March 21, has never reached its destination. Mr. Grebe also complains of excessive freight charges on the O. R. & N. from Portland to Condon, and delays in delivery have caused him much damage.

YEARLING SHEEP BRING \$5.

Heppner.—R. F. Ricknell shipped 25 carloads of sheep from this city and 20 carloads from Echo the first of last week. The sheep are yearlings, and were purchased from Morton County sheepmen at prices ranging from \$4.50 to \$5 per head. There were about 14,000 sheep in the shipment.

POULTRY PLANT NER MEDFORD.

Medford.—C. H. Hoxie has purchased from Gus Lawrence 122 acres south-west of Medford for \$15,000. The land is partially agricultural and partially small timber. Mr. Hoxie purposes going into the chicken business on a large scale.

LAUNCH READY AT HARRIMAN.

Harriman.—The launch belonging to the Columbia Land company is now in running order, and prospective settlers will be taken out on the government dam every afternoon. The people of Harriman initiated the motor car by going en masse to Stanfield.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

RAILROADS RACE ACROSS STATE

Hill and Harriman Interests Rushing to Coos Bay Country.

Burns.—That the Harriman and Hill interests will run a harder race across the state in building from east to west than that now on in heading south through the Deschutes river canyon is becoming apparent. The contest, it is believed, will be the most exciting ever pulled off in the history of western railroad construction.

That the Hill interests will push through to completion with all possible haste a line from Boise, Idaho, to Coos Bay, or some point in the Willamette Valley having connection with Portland by means of the Oregon Electric, is now practically settled in the minds of men speculating on the state's future railroad operations, and it is known that since the Hill interests began to display interest in the same section of the state, the Harriman people, too, have become very active. Surveying parties have been busy for some time strategizing lines with a view of finding the most feasible route from east to west across the state, and it is said that no small portion of the proposed road has already been staked out.

According to information so far given out by men closely in touch with railroad construction people, it appears evident that the Harriman line will be built from Vale westward by way of Burns, which route, it is understood, will also be followed by the Hill people. The recent transfer of the large holdings of the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Military Road company to a syndicate of Minnesota capitalists, who will throw open to settlement by an early announcement from James J. Hill to the effect that the holdings will be given transportation facilities as soon as a line can be built, the survey of which it is believed, will practically parallel the line of the old wagon road its entire distance.

BANKS OF RIVER CAN CAVE.

War Department Refuses to Heed Prayer of Dwellers in Lane.

Washington.—The war department has definitely refused to assist in preventing the washing away of the banks of the Willamette between Eugene and Harrisburg. Citizens, through Senator Chamberlain, asked the department to do this in the dikes that caused the higher water which had caused great destruction upon adjoining lands at each freshet time.

Chief of Engineers Marshall referred the matter to Major McIndoe, at Portland, who upon examination reports: "Caving in was in progress before the dikes were built and in our opinion the dikes are not responsible primarily for such caving in. The project to prevent it would be enormously expensive and not justified by the needs of navigation on the river. Work done for that purpose would be solely for the protection of private property and is therefore not recommended."

ROLLING STOCK FOR SHORT LINE.

Salt Lake City.—In addition to 40 passenger coaches arriving here for the Oregon Short Line and the large number of cars already ordered, the road is preparing to place an order for \$5,000,000 worth of rolling stock. The increased order is believed to be due to the road's anticipation of a season of prosperity. The prediction that there will not be enough rolling stock in the country to accommodate passenger and freight traffic also may have had something to do with the action of the road's officials.

WHITAKER WELL SHOWS OIL.

Dallas.—Drilling has been resumed at the Whitaker oil well. The machinery is again running on full time. The drill is hammering away in a stratum of hard rock, with a strong showing of oil and a constantly increasing flow of natural gas. For the last two weeks drilling operations have been practically suspended to give the workmen an opportunity to put down several hundred feet of 8-inch casing. Rapid progress will now be made.

MOTOR CARRIES MAIL.

Brownsville.—Mail service on the motor between this city and Albany has been inaugurated, and henceforth Brownsville will receive four train mails each day, except Sunday, when there will be but two.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices—Bluestem, 93 @95c; club, 85c@90c; red Russian, 86 1/2 @87c; valley, 95c.

Barley—Cracked and brewing, 23.50@24.50 per ton.

Corn—Whole, \$34; cracked, \$35 ton.

Hay—Track prices—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$20@21 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$23@24; alfalfa, \$16.50@17.50; grain hay, \$17@18.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$27@28.50 ton.

Fresh Fruits—Strawberries, Florida, \$2.50@3 per crate; apples, \$1@2.50 box; cranberries, \$ 8@9 barrel.

Potatoes—Good quality, 100 lb. cwt. Oregon, 40c@50c per hundred; new California, 6c per pound; sweet potatoes, 34@4c.

Vegetables—Asparagus, 3@5c; cabbage, 14@15c per pound; head lettuce, 6@7c per dozen; hothouse lettuce, 50c@81 box; green onions, 15c dozen; radishes, 30c per dozen; rhubarb, 3c per pound; spinach, \$1 per box; sprouts, 8c per pound; turnips, \$1 per sack; rutabagas, \$1@1.25; carrots, 85c @81; beets, \$1@1.25; parsnips, 50@75c.

Onions—Oregon, \$1.75 per hundred.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 39c; fancy outside creamery, 32@33c per pound; store, 20c. Butter fat prices average 1c per pound under regular butter prices.

Pork—Fancy, 13@13 1/2c per pound.

Lamb—Fancy, 12c per pound.

Poultry—Heavy, 20c; broilers, 27@28c; ducks, 22@23c; geese, 12c; turkeys, live, 20@21c; dressed, 25c; squabs, \$3 per dozen.

Cattle—Best steers, \$6.75@7; fair to good steers, \$6@6.50; strictly good cows, \$5.75@6; fair to good cows, \$5 @5.50; light calves, \$6@7; heavy calves, \$4@5; bulls, \$4@5.25; stags, \$4.50@5.50.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$8@8.25; fair to good wethers, \$6.50@7; good lambs, \$5@9.

Hogs—Top, \$11.10@11.25; fair to good \$10@11.

Hops—1909 crop, 12@16c, according to quality; olds, nominal; 1910 contracts, 15@16c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 14@17c per pound; valley, 18@21c; mohair, choice, 30@32c; Portland, 14@16c.

Cascara bark—4@6c per pound.

\$110,000 TO BUILD DAM.

Will Store Enough Water to Irrigate 20,000 Acres in Umatilla.

Pendleton.—The projected dam across the Umatilla river at the Coe dam for the purpose of conserving flood waters of winter to be used in reclaiming 20,000 acres contained in the Furnish-Coe project west of Pendleton is to be constructed this summer. The contract has been signed and bonds given for commencement of work within 30 days and completion by October 1. The Eachbach-Bruce company of Seattle has been awarded the contract.

Although the dam was projected several months ago, and though concrete coya had been constructed from bed rock to the surface of the ground, no work has been done for several months and many were of the opinion that the project had been abandoned.

The original plans of the Furnish-Coe project were for reclaiming land principally by winter, spring and early fall irrigation. Three dry seasons in succession convinced the promoters that it would be well to provide for emergencies, and the dam plan was adopted. The dam will be 50 feet high, 1,170 feet long, 270 feet wide at base, and 20 feet wide at top, and will cost \$110,000. It will form a reservoir covering 240 acres and containing a supply sufficient to irrigate the entire project for 60 days.

Owing to the large number of other reclamation projects, it will be necessary to arrange for normal flow of the river at all seasons of the year. The spillway will also be capable of handling the largest floods and will have a capacity of 50,000 second feet, or twice as much water as has ever passed down the river.

ALL RAIL LINE TO NEWPORT.

Ties Ordered by Corvallis & Eastern to Skirt Yaquina Bay With Road.

Corvallis.—Bench travelers going to Newport, on the Oregon coast, this summer will in all probability not have to put up with the annoyance of transferring from train to ferry at Yaquina, as has been the necessity in the past. The Corvallis & Eastern Railroad company has decided to extend its road from Yaquina, its present terminus, to Newport, the track to skirt the beach of the crescent shaped bay. The news states that the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad company has entered into a contract with the Yaquina Bay Lumber company, at Toledo, for 7,500 railroad ties, which number will be sufficient to cover the stretch between Yaquina and Newport, a distance of about three and a half miles.

ROLLING STOCK FOR SHORT LINE.

Salt Lake City.—In addition to 40 passenger coaches arriving here for the Oregon Short Line and the large number of cars already ordered, the road is preparing to place an order for \$5,000,000 worth of rolling stock. The increased order is believed to be due to the road's anticipation of a season of prosperity. The prediction that there will not be enough rolling stock in the country to accommodate passenger and freight traffic also may have had something to do with the action of the road's officials.

WHITAKER WELL SHOWS OIL.

Dallas.—Drilling has been resumed at the Whitaker oil well. The machinery is again running on full time. The drill is hammering away in a stratum of hard rock, with a strong showing of oil and a constantly increasing flow of natural gas. For the last two weeks drilling operations have been practically suspended to give the workmen an opportunity to put down several hundred feet of 8-inch casing. Rapid progress will now be made.

MOTOR CARRIES MAIL.

Brownsville.—Mail service on the motor between this city and Albany has been inaugurated, and henceforth Brownsville will receive four train mails each day, except Sunday, when there will be but two.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices—Bluestem, 93 @95c; club, 85c@90c; red Russian, 86 1/2 @87c; valley, 95c.

Barley—Cracked and brewing, 23.50@24.50 per ton.

Corn—Whole, \$34; cracked, \$35 ton.

Hay—Track prices—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$20@21 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$23@24; alfalfa, \$16.50@17.50; grain hay, \$17@18.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$27@28.50 ton.

Fresh Fruits—Strawberries, Florida, \$2.50@3 per crate; apples, \$1@2.50 box; cranberries, \$ 8@9 barrel.

Potatoes—Good quality, 100 lb. cwt. Oregon, 40c@50c per hundred; new California, 6c per pound; sweet potatoes, 34@4c.

Vegetables—Asparagus, 3@5c; cabbage, 14@15c per pound; head lettuce, 6@7c per dozen; hothouse lettuce, 50c@81 box; green onions, 15c dozen; radishes, 30c per dozen; rhubarb, 3c per pound; spinach, \$1 per box; sprouts, 8c per pound; turnips, \$1 per sack; rutabagas, \$1@1.25; carrots, 85c @81; beets, \$1@1.25; parsnips, 50@75c.

Onions—Oregon, \$1.75 per hundred.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 39c; fancy outside creamery, 32@33c per pound; store, 20c. Butter fat prices average 1c per pound under regular butter prices.

Pork—Fancy, 13@13 1/2c per pound.

Lamb—Fancy, 12c per pound.

Poultry—Heavy, 20c; broilers, 27@28c; ducks, 22@23c; geese, 12c; turkeys, live, 20@21c; dressed, 25c; squabs, \$3 per dozen.

Cattle—Best steers, \$6.75@7; fair to good steers, \$6@6.50; strictly good cows, \$5.75@6; fair to good cows, \$5 @5.50; light calves, \$6@7; heavy calves, \$4@5; bulls, \$4@5.25; stags, \$4.50@5.50.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$8@8.25; fair to good wethers, \$6.50@7; good lambs, \$5@9.

Hogs—Top, \$11.10@11.25; fair to good \$10@11.

Hops—1909 crop, 12@16c, according to quality; olds, nominal; 1910 contracts, 15@16c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 14@17c per pound; valley, 18@21c; mohair, choice, 30@32c; Portland, 14@16c.

Cascara bark—4@6c per pound.