

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Interest in the Growing Western States.

Alaska Criminal Code.

A bill has been framed by Senator Perkins to amend the criminal code which was adopted for Alaska at the last session of congress. In this bill, Senator Perkins prohibits the construction of barrackades in streams for the purpose of catching fish...

Money to Push Railroad Building.

The Bellingham Bay & British Columbia railroad has given a tract deed to its property in Whatcom county to the Bank of California to secure the payment of \$1,000,000 in first mortgage bonds...

Transfer of a Sawmill.

The Coppinger sawmill, at Tenino, Wash., was sold to the Douglas Lumber Company of Chehalis, the members of the company consisting of L. H. Miller and Mrs. H. J. Miller...

Far-life Coast Chat.

Canemah levies a 11-mill school tax. Reedville school district votes a 2-mill tax this year.

Nine workhorses, at Elgin, have brought \$85 to \$100 a head.

Hon. M. Baker, pioneer of La Grande, has been quite ill with bronchitis.

At Stafford, Clackamas county, the mercury recently went down to 26 degrees.

R. Hull has sold his farm near Lebanon to an Albany man.

A dog-poisoner is at work at Glenoco. One man, a physician, has suffered the loss of five dogs.

George Childer's 200-acre farm, four miles from Island City, has been sold to John Blochland for \$8,600—all cash but \$2,000.

The discovery of two cases of scarlet fever at Weston brought attention to the fact that the town had no quarantine ordinance.

At Lower Cove, a disturbance in a chicken house caused a boy to go out, close the door, and fasten it with a string "button". Next morning the door was open, with a hole in it large enough to admit a man's arm.

A logging railroad, projected along the Clatskanie, will not be built because one or two ranchers unwisely asked much larger rans for right of way over their lands than the enterprise would warrant.

The people of Tillamook county are urging the extension of the Astoria & Columbia River railroad from Seaside to their county, but President Hammond has stated that work will not be commenced until 1902, when it is his purpose to extend the line down the coast and connect with the Corvallis & Eastern at Yaquina bay.

In the year 1899, 23 divorces were granted in Walla Walla county, none being denied.

The United States pays \$65.36 a year for rent in Spokane.

Tacoma's receipts in January were \$24,387; its expenditures, \$38,574, and the cash balance on February 1 was \$205,237.

About 50 Coueur d'Alene Indians were entertained at a feast at Tekoa the day after the close of the recent farmer's institute.

Europe's national debt is \$23,000,000,000.

Of Walla Walla county's total tax of \$162,892.27 for 1898, all but \$4,955.30 has been collected. The tax for 1899 will be due soon.

The United States secret service department has undertaken to ferret out a gang of counterfeiters who are making life a burden for the owners of slot machines throughout Seattle.

STRENGTH OF STAPLES.

Leading Feature of the Trade Situation This Week.

Bradstreet's says: The strength of staples, and particularly those of agricultural origin, is the leading feature this week, at least. In general trade, weather conditions have not favored a big distribution, but, compared with a year ago, are still quite favorable.

The strength of the raw sugar position has been further increased this week by bullish reports from European beet markets, and the expectation that receipts of cane sugars are apt to be light in the future.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$2.50 to \$2.60 per sack. Lettuce, hot house, 40c per doz. Potatoes, new, \$18 to \$20. Beets, per sack, 75 to \$85. Turnips, per sack, 60c. Carrots, per sack, 60c. Parsnips, per sack, 75 to \$85. Cauliflower, 75c to \$1 per dozen. Cabbage, native and California, \$1.00 to \$1.25 per 100 pounds. Apples, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box. Pears, \$1.00 to \$1.25 per box. Prunes, 60c per box. Butter—Creamery, 31c per pound; dairy, 17 to 22c; ranch, 40c per pound. Eggs—20c. Cheese—Native, 16c. Poultry—13 to 14c; dressed, 14 to 15c. Hay—Pugst sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00 to \$19.00. Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22. Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; Graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.80; rye flour, \$3.80 to \$4.00. Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14.00; shorts, per ton, \$16.00. Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 4 1/2c; cows, 4 to 4 1/4c; pork, 4 1/2c; trimmed, 6 1/2c; veal, small, 6c; large, 4c. Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13 1/2c; breakfast bacon, 12 1/2c; dry salt sides, 6c.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 55 to 54c; Valley, 53c; Bluestem, 54c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$2.90; Graham, \$3.25; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 35 to 36c; choice gray, 34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$14 to \$15.00; brewing, \$17.50 to \$18.50 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$18 per ton; middlings, \$19; shorts, \$15; chop, \$14 per ton. Hay—Timothy, \$10 to \$11; clover, \$7 to \$8; Oregon wild hay, \$6 to \$7 per ton. Butter—Fancy creamery, 50 to 55c; seconds, 42 1/2 to 45c; dairy, 30 to 37 1/2c; store, 22 1/2 to 27 1/2c. Eggs—14 to 15c per dozen. Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00 to \$4.00 per dozen; hens, \$4.50; springs, \$3.50 to \$3.80; geese, \$7.00 to \$8.00 for old; \$4.50 to \$5.50; ducks, \$6.00 to \$7.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12 to 15c per pound. Potatoes—55 to 80c per sack; sweets, 2 to 2 1/4c per pound. Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c per sack; garlic, 70c per pound; cauliflower, 1 1/2c per pound; parsnips, \$1; onions, \$1.50 to \$2.00; carrots, \$1. Hops—7 to 10c; 1898 crop, 5 to 6c. Wool—Valley, 12 to 18c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8 to 14c; mohair, 37 to 30c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4 1/2c; dressed mutton, 7 to 7 1/2c per pound; lambs, 7 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$6.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50 to \$6.00 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.00 to \$4.50; cows, \$3.50 to \$4.00; dressed beef, 6 1/2 to 7 1/2c per pound. Veal—Large, 7 to 8c; small, 8 1/2 to 9 1/2c per pound.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Nevada, 12 to 15c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12 to 16c; Valley, 20 to 22c; Northern, 10 to 12c. Hops—1899 crop, 11 to 18c per pound. Butter—Fancy creamery 27 to 28c; do seconds, 25 to 26c; fancy dairy, 21 to 26c; do seconds, 18 to 21c per pound. Eggs—Store, 15 to 16c; fancy ranch, 19c. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$18.00 to \$21.00; bran, \$14.50 to \$15.00. Hay—Wheat \$8.50 to \$9.50; wheat and oat \$8.50 to \$9.00; best barley \$5.00 to \$7.00; alfalfa, \$6.00 to \$7.50 per ton; straw, 30 to 40c per bale. Potatoes—Early Rose, 90c to \$1; Oregon Burbanks, 75c to \$1.10; river Burbanks, 50 to 75c; Salinas Burbanks, 80c to \$1.10 per sack. Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$2.75 to \$3.25; Mexican limes, \$4.00 to \$5.00; California lemons 75c to \$1.50; do choice \$1.75 to \$2.00 per box. Tropical Fruits—Bananas, \$1.50 to \$2.50 per bunch; pineapples, nominal; Persian dates, 6 to 6 1/2c per pound.

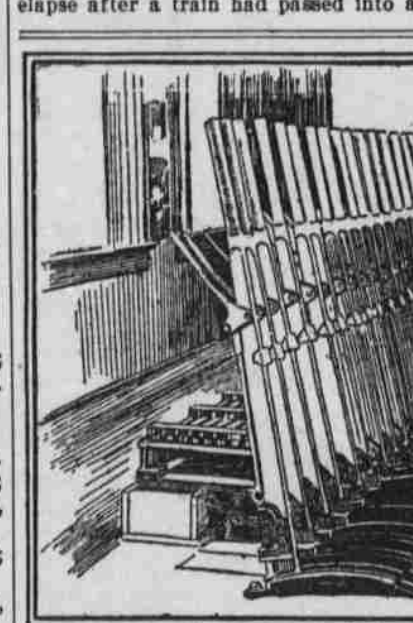
WONDERFUL SYSTEM.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS PREVENTED BY SEMAPHORES.

Three Types of Signals—When Third Rail Is Used the Running of Trains Will Be an Easy Affair and Safety Will Be Assured.

In no other corporate industry have organization and efficiency been more highly developed than in the railroads of the United States. The most perfect illustration of this is the enormous amount of passenger traffic which is safely handled every year over the thousands of miles of rail-gridded country. This has become possible only by the development of a system whereby accountability is clearly and accurately defined, says the Scientific American.

When the third-rail system of power distribution has become universal, as it most assuvely will, the running of each train will be under the direct supervision and immediate control of the train dispatcher himself. The towers, significant effect a great saving against the amount yearly spent in fighting suits for damages incurred by reason of faulty apparatus. This, too, aside from the consideration of human life.

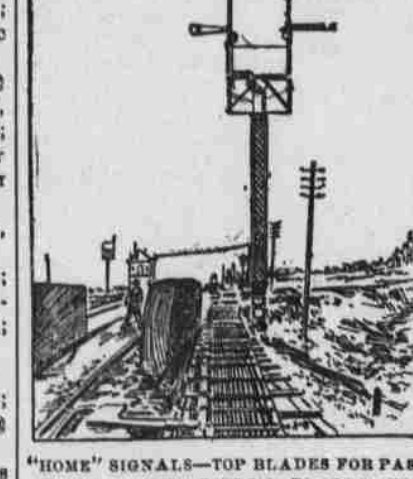


INTERIOR OF THE TOWER.

block before another was permitted to enter the same block. But as a time interval and not a space interval was the unit of safety between running trains, obviously it didn't protect.

In the telegraphic block system the operator is supposed to keep his signal set at "danger" until notified that the train had passed into a block ahead. But there is nothing to prevent a "clear" signal being shown through mistake or carelessness. This is more or less overcome in the "automatic" system by which the passing of the signal itself into the next block sets the signal at clear. It is necessary, however, to allow the following train to proceed after a time even against a danger signal: for it is impossible to know whether the signal indicates danger because a train remains in the block or because of the failure of the apparatus to work properly.

The latest and by far the best system in use is a combination of the manual and automatic. In this system the signals are set by hand, but are locked and released electrically by the opera-



"HOME" SIGNALS—TOP BLADES FOR PASSENGER AND BOTTOM BLADES FOR FREIGHT TRAINS.

tor in the next tower as well as by the passing of the train itself, the track being divided into electrically insulated sections for the purpose. Thus, it will be seen that it is almost impossible for a signal to be improperly displayed.

About the Semaphores.

The signals or semaphores are paddles normally standing out at right angles to the supporting pole, indicating danger, and variously known as "home," "advance" and "distant" signals. The home blade is square ended, and like the pointed advance blade, is painted red with a white band. The distant blade is a "fish-tail" and painted yellow and black. The reverse of each is painted white with a black band. The opposite end of the blade has a little glass window which shows red at night. When the outer end is dropped it indicates clear track, and for the same purpose the light shows white at night. The light behind the distant blade is normally green, and means "caution." The signals are counterbalanced, so that they always return to danger position, horizontal, if anything goes wrong with the controlling mechanism. All the signals are interlocking, so that it is impossible to clear one without clearing the other two.

And not only are the signals interlocking with each other, but they also interlock with the switches of all crossovers and turnouts. In the tower, where the operator, who is responsible for the safety of the

trains, is stationed, are a number of levers attached to the signals by means of long pipes, a lever and a pipe for each semaphore. But none of the signals can be set until unlocked electrically from the next block by the passing train. It will thus be seen that a clear signal can not be shown unless all switches are properly set and the train has entered the next block ahead. A collision is, therefore, impossible if the engineers obey the signals.

Red Tape in Washington.

A correspondent passing hurriedly into the room of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors to see Representative Burton pulled the knob of the door, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "How can I get that fixed, do you think?" asked Burton. "Shall I get the carpenter or the locksmith?" "The locksmith, I suppose." "No, sir. Were I to send for the locksmith he would tell me to consult the architect of the capitol. He has no authority to fix doorknobs. Doorknobs are permanent fixtures and are solely within the jurisdiction of the architect of the capitol."

Natural Soaps.

From time immemorial the Egyptian soaproot and the Spanish soaproot have been employed for washing in Southern Europe and Egypt, and are, to some extent, exported for use in cleansing fine articles. In the West Indies and South America a pulpy fruit, which grows on a tree known as the soap tree, is said to have such cleansing properties that it will clean as much linen as sixty times its weight of manufactured soap. There is also a tree in Peru, Qullaja Saponaria, whose bark, in infusion, yields a soapy liquid much valued for washing woollens, and is largely imported to England and other countries for this purpose. The juice of the soapwort, or, as it is commonly called in the United States and Great Britain, the "Bouncing Bet," strongly possesses the saponaceous qualities. In California the roots of the Phacelia Pomardiana, which grows there abundantly, are much used for washing. This plant has a strong odor of brown soap in its leaves and stems, as well as the roots. The South Sea Islands and the islands of the Caribbean Sea also produce plants which are used as soap substitutes.

Warring in the Choir.

"Rumors reach one's ears that the power of quarreling within certain church choirs can only be exceeded by the high spirit of a body of Irish patriots, and that there is almost nothing so trivial and invisible but that it will set a choir by the ears," writes Ian MacLaren in the Ladies Home Journal. "It may be the place in the stall, or the singing of a particular part, or a correction to the choir-master, or a word of approval to another chorister, or a remark dropped by one of the choir—so tender are the feelings of a chorister—anything, or for that matter, nothing, will hurt. He will sulk, or make unpleasant remarks, or resign, or drive some other persons out, and then on some great occasion all the members of the choir will resign and take themselves so seriously that the event will be considered equal in interest to a war. Upon the whole, the choir rather enjoys a crisis of this kind, for it gives stimulus to the artistic temperament. But there are some who do not enter wholly into the enjoyment."

Starting.

A Kansas exchange reports the following incident as having taken place in one of the villages near Topeka: A woman, in making her usual preparations for supper, took a teakettle to the kitchen and pumped it full of water. Then she carried it to the kitchen and set it on the stove. In a few minutes she heard a most remarkable splashing in the kettle and turned from her work to examine into the cause. Just as she was about to raise the kettle, a snake stuck its head out of the spout. With an execrable scream the woman seized the kettle, ran out into the yard, raised the lid and poured out the water, and with it the scalded snake. The reptile writhed slowly away, but whether it survived its hot bath is not known. If it did, and if it knows anything, it will stay out of kitchens in future."

Experience Under Fire.

One of the ladies who went out to see the fighting at Ladysmith has described that experience in a lively letter. A shell landed not many hundred yards away, and she ran to get a piece of it. "Off I scampered. Spoke to the first soldier I came to. He said: 'Come with me; I can warn you in time to clear before another comes.' So I went gaily, talking away. Another soldier said: 'Here comes another, and before we had time to think the awful booming and shrieking came—and I wish you could have seen your younger sister. I just shut my eyes tight and clung to a barbed-wire fence, and whispered: 'Good God!' It exploded about twenty feet away; perhaps not so much; the earth shook under me, and my legs felt hot all over."

The Wily Native.

"Nothing," says a man who spent many years in South Africa, "gives a native greater pleasure than to read the countenance of a white man when he knows the latter wants information. For a piece of tobacco he will trump up an exciting story, and for an extra quarter he will lay it on thickly. I have often seen them at this game, their eyes twinkling with delight while they have been imparting some confidential statement to myself and others; and it is quite clear that they are making wild statements as to these supposed battles and the terrible loss of life which has been inflicted upon the enemy."

Th Is Own Ammunition.

A large amount of the small-arms ammunition used by the Boers against the English troops is of British manufacture. As late as 1896 a large English cartridge firm, the President of which is Arthur Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary's brother, supplied the Boer government with some millions of rounds of ammunition. This transaction was, of course, well known to the British at the time.

French Savings Banks.

The rate of interest in the savings banks of France is 3 1/2 per cent and the latest statistics published show an aggregate deposit of \$680,000,000. More than half the depositors are women, mostly belonging to the working classes, and of all the adult inhabitants of France one in four is a depositor.

Good Reason.

"There, sir, is a woman to whom I never speak as we pass by." "Whimsical—And why not, pray?" "Because we have never been introduced."—Judy.

Improvements on Nature.

Celery is derived from smaggle. Fibrets, etc., are improvements of the hazelnut.

What Is the Price of This Lovely Antiquique Chair?

"Thirty-seven dollars, madam," answered the dealer. "Thirty-seven dollars?" exclaimed the lady in astonishment. "Why, I didn't suppose it worth half that much." "You didn't ask what it was worth, madam," replied the conscientious dealer. "You asked the price."

Easily Explained.

She—It is said that one woman and a sewing machine will do the work of a dozen women. He—I can readily understand why that is possible. She—Why is it? He—A woman doesn't waste any time talking to a sewing machine.

A Parting Shot.

She had presented him with the marble heart, and as he was about to remove his hat from the hall rack for the last time he said: "Perhaps it is better so, and but for one thing I should not regret your decision." "Indeed!" she exclaimed in surprise, "and what is that one thing, pray?" "Listen, cruel one, and I will tell you," he answered. "Had we married and gone to housekeeping I should have been spared the expense of buying a refrigerator."

A Favorable Sign.

"Has my daughter encouraged your suit?" asked the father. "Well," replied the young man, "I can only point to circumstantial evidence, and the dog is always looking at the cellar on nights that I call."—Philadelphia North American.

Lucrative Positions.

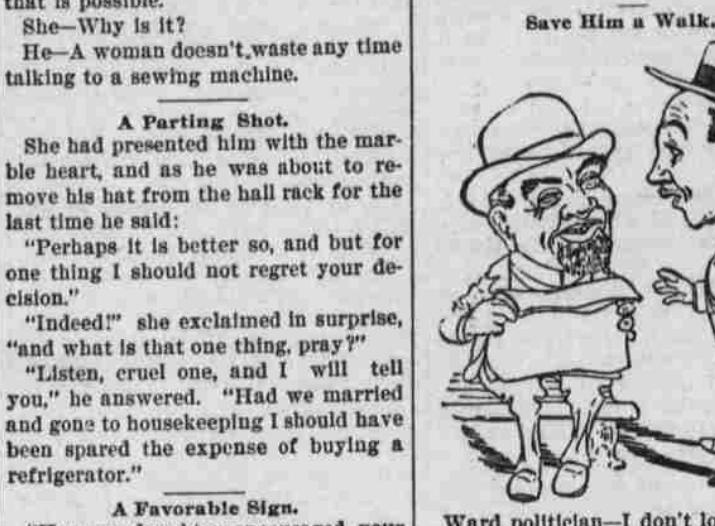
Pellucid Pete—Yes, lady, my profession is of de highest order. I am surrounded by sweet odors, and fair women lavish red smiles on me Greek without. But, alas! I am busy only a short time each year. Lady—And what is your profession? Pellucid Pete—Soda water clerk.

Ward politician—I don't lok the Job Boss—Why, y don't do a thing but walk down and draw yer pay eac month. Ward politician—I know, but can't y send the pay up to me? To the Last. After she had selected an imposing column of marble she handed him the epitaph manuscript. "But, madam," he gasped, "that column won't hold half of that without crowding." "Don't mind the column being crowded," responded the widow. "My husband was an editor."



"Sunday ought to be a day of rest." "Yes; on weekdays, however, I catch trains for myself, while on Sundays catch them for myself, wife and three children." In Jugged Lines. "What makes Stubbs' poetry so popular?" "It looks so much like a column of real-estate transfers." The Worm Turns. Polliceman—Come, move on, now. The Tramp—Say, do you think I've discovered perpetual motion?—Philadelphia North American. Save Him a Walk.

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Particular. The tourist—You are a centenarian, I believe? The oldest inhabitant—Now, sir; I'm a Methodist. Satisfied If myself. Miss Waterno—I have brought this book back. Mamma says it is not fit for me to read. Librarian—I think your mother must be mistaken. Miss Waterno—Oh, no, she isn't. I've read it all through. How Time Does Fly. "Well, well! Is that you, Jones? Glad to see you. Let's see; we haven't met since last year, have we?" "Right; and come to think of it, not since back in eighteen hundred."—Philadelphia North American. Easily Gussed. Erastus (seeing snow-shoe prints)—Well, dem looks laik Miss Lillie's footsteps, sho'. Guess she mus' pass dis a-way. His Experience. Briggs—You don't know what you are talking about when you call me a donkey. Digger—I'd like to know why I don't. I once owned a donkey for three months.—Chicago News. Nothing Extraordinary. Mack O'Reil—I just met a full-grown man that sleeps every night in a crib. Luke Warme—Remarkable. Mack O'Reil—Not at all. You see, it is a water crib out in Lake Michigan. Just the Thing. Lulu—What do you think would harmonize nicely with a straw-colored suit? Irene—Why, I would suggest new-mown hair.—Philadelphia Bulletin. She Liked It. "Apsley's been caught more than once kissing the cook." "And didn't his wife interfare?" "Oh, no; she's the cook."—Philadelphia Bulletin. Too Realistic. Ida—I think Walter is awful mean. May—Why, dear? Ida—He wears those horrid mouse-colored mocha gloves. He dropped one on the floor and it looked so natural I screamed. Let the Omission Be Supplied. Jersey Jim—Chicago has a warm heart, but a little more of politeness wud be better. Baltimore Bill—On what do yer bass yer wuds, beauf? Jersey—Why, yesterday I reads a sign on de police station dat sez: "Lodgers will call at rear." Why couldn't dey say: "Lodgers will please call at rear?" High Rollers. Rowland Rants—So our audience tonight will be composed of ultra swells? Rowxy—Yes, me lord! Why, if we receive any eggs rest assured they will be \$1,500 gaudy ank eggs. Her Face. "Ah," the man said, "she has an artist's face." "Yes," the woman sneered, "and she uses it instead of a canvas."—Chicago Times-Herald. Then She Wouldn't Tell Him. She—I would tell you a little piece of news if I were sure it wouldn't go any further. He—You're safe in telling me. There never was a man who could make a little piece of news go further than a woman.—Philadelphia Bulletin. His Hint for a Raise. I could not help listening to the stories told by a group of commercial men in the reading room of one of the local hotels. One story in particular I noted, told by a young hardware drummer. "There is in the employ of our house," he said, "a young man who is assistant bookkeeper. He's a steady chap, minds his own business, and as shrewd as they make them. The other day the senior partner of the firm, who seldom comes around, made a tour of inspection, and as he approached the assistant bookkeeper he noticed the solemn expression on his face. Desiring to be congenial he said: "How are you, young man? I see you are at your work. That is good. Close attention to business will always bring its own reward. Tell me, what are your earnings now per week?" The young man, without a moment's hesitation, answered: "Twenty dollars, sir, but I only get half of that."—Philadelphia Bulletin. Although the bass drum is frequently tapped its notes are never liquid.