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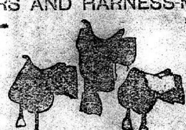

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THE WORLD IN BRIEF.

A silver mine with ore assaying $500 a ton has been discovered near Tia Juana, San Diego county, Cal.

Locomotives now run in Jerusalem, and the shrill steam-whistle is heard in the streets once trod by King David.

A single sale of wheat was recently made in Tehama county, Cal., the money payment involved being $225,000.

The *News* of Scott valley, Siskiyou county, has been resurrected by L. D. Clark, formerly of the Red Bluff *Cause*.

Orange buyers are offering $1.62 a box for fruit on the trees in Los Angeles county, but are not making many contracts at that price.

"What is filling our insane asylums?" asks a patent-medicine advertisement. Well, there are 30,000 brass bands in this country at the present time, and the number is rapidly increasing. If this is not the right answer we have another.—*Norristown Herald*.

The annual report of the secretary of war, furnished for publication shows that the expenditures of the department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, were $36,990,903. A surplus of $1,208,016 remained unexpended. The appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1887, are $46,027,559, and the estimates for the year ending June 30, 1888, are $48,163,655. The army at date of the last consolidated return consisted of 2103 officers and 23,946 enlisted men. There are ten regiments of cavalry, five of artillery and twenty-five of infantry. Of Indian scouts there are 595, and 2003 enlisted men are on detached service with recruiting parties, etc.

The market report from New York, Dec. 5th, has the following in regard to wool: "While holders are quite firm in prices, the bull element in the market does not feel much encouragement, business running comparatively light and buyers not showing much interest. Among sales were 5,000 pounds spring California at 21 cents, 1,000 pounds spring California at 22@22½, 1,000 pounds Oregon at 24 cents, 20,000 pounds Oregon at 24½ cents, and 50,000 pounds Oregon at 24@25 cents. The Philadelphia market is very quiet, with no important change in prices. Stocks being light, holders have strong confidence in the future. Among sales were 25,000 pounds California spoured at 65 cents, 5,000 pounds coarse Territory at 31@35 cents, and 5,000 pounds unwashed fine Territory at 23 cents. The Boston market is quiet, and manufacturers confine purchases generally to sample bags. Medium Territory wools are in very fair demand, but there is some pressure to sell other Territory wools. California wools are quiet. Among sales were 46,000 pounds Territory at 21@27 cents."

A Strange Story.

The late decision of the supreme court in the "Balch case," as it is commonly called, has caused considerable comment. It is a long story, but to put into a smaller compass is a rather difficult task.

About thirty six years ago one Danforth Balch settled on a claim then in the dense forest, but now in the northwest corner of Portland. Balch had a wife and nine children. He built a house, cleared off some twenty acres, planted an orchard and occupied himself in hunting. Among those who hunted with him was one Mortimer Stump, who became smitten with Balch's eldest daughter and wished to marry her. Balch said the girl was too young to marry, but if Stump would wait till she was of a proper age he would make no objections. He warned Stump that if he eloped with the girl he would be shot. Stump did run away with the girl, and Balch, meeting him on the Stark street ferry boat, shot him dead. In his last statement he said the gun went off by accident. He was arrested, tried, and hanged on the 17th of October, 1859, about nine years after he had settled on his claim. While Balch was in jail he divided his claim with his wife, giving her the east half as the most valuable. It is probable that he intended to take 640 acres, but when Mrs. Balch received the patent it only covered about 345 acres. In his last statement, made to the clergyman, and published in the *Oregonian* with a full account of his hanging, he said: "I have great solitude about my children. It is my desire that my wife should deed her part of the claim to the children, renting it in the meantime for her and their support."

Accordingly, on the day Balch was buried Mrs. Balch made a deed conveying her half of the claim (153 acres) to the eight children living with her, the widow of Stump, who had attended the execution of her father, with the Stump family being omitted from the deed.

The deed was never recorded, and was probably afterward destroyed, but it was seen by parties who testified to its having been in existance. In 1862 Mrs. Balch deeded this tract again to John A. Confer, and that day (December 8th) married him. Shortly after this, one Morril, who had married the widow Stump, commenced suit against Mrs. Confer, to set aside the deed she had given to Confer, and establish the deed previously made by her, conveying the land to her eight children.

Confer employed Dolph & Mitchell to defend his interests and deeded them half of his land for so doing. The circuit court decided in favor of Confer, but the case was carried to the supreme court and reversed, and the eight children received their own—that is, it was decided that Mrs. Confer had a life interest in the land and it was to go to her eight children at her death.

When four of her eight children had come of age they deeded their interest in the fee of the land to different parties, two of the eighths finally coming to Max Goldsmith, and the other two to Louis Goldsmith, who still own them, and they have always remained in peaceable possession thereof, and this half of Mr. Balch's claim has not been involved in the "Balch case" since that time.

The only one of the Balch family now on the old tract is the woman whose haste to wed caused all this trouble, and who, being long since divorced from her second husband is now living happily with her third. Of Mrs. Balch's claim five-eighths are now owned by Louis Goldsmith, two-eighths by Max Goldsmith and one eighth by the "orphans," the child of Balch now on the claim owning one-tenth of that eighth.

The value of the whole of the original Balch claim, which has been in litigation, is now probably $350,000, and the whole of what was patented to Balch and his wife must be worth well on toward half a million.—*Oregonian*.

Life at Old Fort Vancouver.

In his Oregon history, Hubert Howe Bancroft has given a graphic description of Fort Vancouver, the headquarters of the Hudson Bay Company, in what was known as the Oregon Territory in the times prior to American dominion. In 1834 the United States and England held this region under treaty of joint occupancy.

The fort was situated upon the north bank of the Columbia river, about six miles above the mouth of the Willamette river. The country all around was full of scenes of nature's grandeur, beauty and loveliness. Snowy peaks looked down upon the blue forests of the lower ranges, and the majestic river rolled its waters along shores carved with verdure and shrubs bearing flowers of the brightest colors. The fort was not formidable in appearance. It consisted of a strong stockade about twenty feet high, with out bastions, embracing an area of two hundred and fifty by one hundred and fifty yards. Within this enclosure, around three sides, were ranged the dwellings of the gentlemen of the company's services. In the centre, facing the main entrance, or great gate, was the residence of Doctor John McLaughlin, the governor by courtesy of the Hudson Bay Company in Oregon, a French Canadian structure, painted white, with piazza and flower-beds in front and grape-vines trained along a rude trellis. The steps leading to the hall of the governor's house were of horseshoe form, and between the two flights stood a twenty-four pound cannon mounted on a sea-carriage. On either side of this were two mortar guns, all with shot piled orderly about them, but otherwise looking innocent enough in their peaceful resting places. There were no galleries around the walls for sentinels, nor loop-holes for small arms, no appearances, in fact, indicating a dangerous neighborhood. Near the centre of the enclosure rose the company's flag-staff, and everything about the place was orderly, neat and business like. The magazine, ware-houses, store and shops were all contained within the palisades, and during the hours appointed for labor every man attended to his duties, whether as trader, clerk, smith, baker or tailor.

A bell, large enough for a country church, was supported by three stout poles about twenty feet high, covered with a little painted roof to keep off the rain. This brazen monitor rang out at five o'clock in the morning, rousing the farriers, mechanics, and farmers, to their tasks, at eight it announced breakfast at nine, work again; at twelve, dinner; at one, work; at six, suspension of labor and supper. Saturday's work ended at five, at which time the physician of the establishment served to the men their weekly rations, consisting in winter of eight gallons of potatatoes and eight salt salmon, and in summer of peas and tallow, no bread or meat being served except occasionly. The Indian servants hunted and fished for additional supplies. Nor was this unremitting industry unnecessary. The management of the Hudson Bay Company required its posts to be self supporting. The extent of territory they traded over was immense, and the number of their forts increased the demand for such articles as could be produced only in favorable localities. For instance, at Vancouver the demand for axes and hatchets for the trappers and Indians required fifty of them to be made daily. In addition to the manufacture of these, the smiths had plenty to do in repairing farming tools and milling machinery and making the various articles required by a community consisting of several hundred people. The carpenter, the turner, and the tailor were equally busy; two or three men were constantly employed making bread for the fort people and sea-biscuits for the coasting vessels. The furs had to be beaten once a week to drive out moths and the dust. The clerks had not only to keep accounts and copy letters, but keep a journal of every days' affairs. Among so many persons some were sure to be in the hospital, and on these the best medical care was bestowed. Though so far from the world, as to seem removed from the world's wants, Fort Vancouver was no place for the indulgence of poetic idleness. On the farm was a flouring mill and a threshing machine, worked by oxen or horses in the Arcadian way, yet sufficient for the wants of all. A few miles above the [illegible]

[illegible]

How to [illegible]

A gentleman [illegible] summer abroad [illegible] that the thing [illegible] most of all was [illegible] days one encountered [illegible] little anxiety the [illegible] conduct of business [illegible] boast here," he [illegible] for years without [illegible] would be [illegible]

"Then, I suppose [illegible] advertising [illegible]

[illegible] this summer we [illegible] ning day and night [illegible] mand, which has [illegible] greater than ever [illegible] tory at this season."

"How do you account [illegible]

"The increase [illegible] universal recognition [illegible] of our preparations [illegible] nearly ten years before [illegible] the sales are constantly [illegible] while your newspaper [illegible] constantly diminishing [illegible] scientific and medical [illegible] now publicly concede [illegible] ner's safe cure is the [illegible] specific for kidney, and [illegible] and for all the many [illegible] by them."

"Have you evidence [illegible]

"Abundance! Only [illegible] ago Dr. J. L. Stephens [illegible] Ohio, a specialist for [illegible] cotic, etc., habits told [illegible] ber of eminent scientific [illegible] had been experimenting [illegible] testing and analyzing [illegible] edies for the kidneys [illegible] you may be aware, the [illegible] of all narcotics and [illegible] stroys these organs [illegible] can be restored to health [illegible] cannot be broken up [illegible] investigators were [illegible] M. Hall, M. D., [illegible] State Board of Health [illegible] Alexander Neil, M. D. [illegible] Surgery in the college [illegible] and Surgeons and [illegible] Academy of Medicine [illegible] who, after exhaustive [illegible] that there was no [illegible] schools or to science [illegible] to Warner's safe cure [illegible] the use of [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ney and liver vigor [illegible] remedy, can keep [illegible] in moderation."

"Well does not [illegible] you a new revelation [illegible] of safe cure?"

"No, sir, for [illegible] convince the public [illegible] the diseases of the [illegible] iginate in some [illegible] neys or liver, and [illegible] cally declared [illegible] used, over nine [illegible] ailments would dis [illegible] and kidneys [illegible] poisons from the [illegible] depraved and dis [illegible]

"When these [illegible] thus publicly admit [illegible] remedy like ours [illegible] neys and liver to throw [illegible] ful effects of all deadly [illegible] cessive use of stimulants [illegible] mission of its power [illegible] one could desire; for [illegible] influence alone the [illegible] phine, quinine, cocaine [illegible] habits can be overcome [illegible] er testimonial of its [illegible] could be asked for?"

"You really believe then [illegible] ner, that the majority [illegible] come from kidney and liver [illegible] plaints?"

"I do! When you see [illegible] moping and groveling [illegible] dead and half alive [illegible] you may surely [illegible] having some kidney [illegible] trouble."

"The other day I [illegible] Dr. Fowler, the [illegible] this city, who [illegible]

[illegible]

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