

A HERO OF THE TELEGRAPH KEY

Three years ago as the Overland Limited dashed through the night in the bad lands forty-five miles west of Cheyenne, Wyo., a rail broke in two and came up through the bottom of the baggage car. In an instant the train of nine cars was piled thirty feet high, while about and beneath the wreckage were more than 150 dead or injured human beings. A frightful sleet storm with biting cold was raging, and to this the hurt and dying lay exposed.

The locomotive was wrecked, so that it was impossible to cut loose and race ahead to the nearest settlement with word of the disaster, and it seemed as if nothing could be done to save the sufferers except to flag the next train, due in five hours, when, from under the wreck, on his hands and knee stumps, came an apparition leaving a red trail behind. It proved to be Frank Shaley, a telegraph lineman, who has been sent up the road to locate a wire trouble and who had his satchel of instruments strapped across his shoulder and had been in the baggage car when the crash came. Clutching the precious satchel, he dragged himself forward, but his legs had been smashed off at the knees and he was bleeding frightfully.

"The telegraph! Cut in on the telegraph!" he shouted, but not a man there knew which one of the scores of wires to cut, and Shaley himself could not tell without testing. They threw a rope across an arm of one of the poles, passed a sling about the dying man, and hoisted him up. Then he cut and grounded the wire and connected his telegraph key. Tenderly propped by anxious hands, he began to send the call for the Cheyenne operator, meanwhile gazing stoically at the pool where his life blood ebbed away. At that unusual hour of the night he found trouble in raising his man, and he pounded his key for ten minutes before he got an answering click.

"No. 17 terrible wrecked forty miles west of Cheyenne. Send hospital train," he said. Then they pillowed his head on the satchel and an armful of waste, while forty miles away a whistle shrieked through the night and brought engineer, fireman and 200 Japanese tumbled onto the wrecking train, followed by the hospital train with doctors and nurses. But Shaley was gone when they came. Not a line in the ashen face betrayed the inhuman torture he must have undergone, nor the strain of turning his mind from his own agony and impending doom to the little brass instrument with which he had saved scores of lives.—A. W. Rolker, in Everybody's.

WHAT MAKES "TIRED LAND"

What makes the land tired?

Farmer Jones is worried. His fields are not nearly so productive as they used to be. His corn does not yield so many bushels to the acre, and even the potatoes show lessened crops.

This sort of thing tells on the bank account. Farmer Jones judges, from all he can learn, that the soil is becoming exhausted—in other words that so much of the plant food it originally contained has been taken out of it by off-repeated cropping that it is in a measure used up. To resupply it with plant food he buys and contributes to the land quantities of expensive fertilizers. They fail to produce the hoped-for result, and then the unhappy farmer comes to the melancholy conclusion that his acres are "worn out"—that is to say, rendered incapable for the future of yielding profitable returns.

Such "worn out" lands comprise a large part of the State of Virginia. They cover extensive areas in New England and elsewhere in the East. So hopeless are they considered for agriculture that they can often be purchased for a mere song. Abandoned farms—forsaken merely because they are no longer productive—may be found scattered all over these sections of the country.

And yet there is nothing really the matter with these farms—at all events nothing that ought to be very difficult to remedy. Their soil is just as good, and capable of as abundant a fruitfulness, as it ever was—save for the fact that through lack of proper use and treatment chemical substances of a poisonous nature have accumulated in it. It is these substances that render the land unproductive.

The discovery of these "soil toxins" as they are called, represents one of the newest and most important additions to scientific knowledge in relation to agriculture. It has already gone far enough to enable the experts of the government bureau of soils to point to certain definite chemical compounds, represented by actual samples contained in little bottles, as the toxins in question. These substances—not all of which have been isolated as yet, however—are known positively and beyond question to be the poisons that cause "soil fatigue."—Technical World Magazine.

SLIGHT INCREASE OVER CENSUS AS TAKEN LAST YEAR

Census Takers Report That There Are Very Few Vacant Houses in the City

The school census for the year 1909 for the Klamath Falls district has just been taken. There are 672 children of school age. This is but a slight increase over the number reported last year. It is generally recognized that there has been a decided increase in the population of Klamath Falls, and that there is not a proportionate increase in the school census is accounted for by the fact that a number of large families have removed from the city. A comparison of the census rolls for 1908 and 1909 shows that during the past year 19 families, representing in round numbers 100 school children, have removed from Klamath Falls.

In taking the census it was found that many of the pupils of school age are not attending school. The enrollment in the public schools is 452, while that of the High School is 125, making a total of 577. This leaves about 100 pupils who are not enrolled. Making a conservative estimate one can say that there are at least 25 children in the city who need the attention of the truant officer.

The public schools are taxed to their full capacity and the new school building is sorely needed. It is difficult for the teachers to do the best possible work with the conditions crowded as they are at present.

In making the census for the year 1908 a noticeable fact that there are very few vacant houses in the city, and that the number of families represented on the roll for the year 1909 is much larger than for the year 1908.

The school census is supposed to include the names of all persons between the ages of 4 and 20 years residing in the city. The census takers found it extremely difficult to get many of the young married people to confess that they were not yet beyond the school age. The roll shows at least a dozen married women. The total number of boys is about 50 in excess of the number of girls.

TO PURCHASE LEAVITT PLACE

Construction of This and West Side Plant to Be Begun Next Summer

The contract has been approved for the purchase of the reclamation service of about sixty feet of the Leavitt place on which they hold an option. The transfer will be made before the end of the year or just as soon as the abstracts are passed upon.

This property is to be used by the service as a location for a power plant, which will have a capacity of over 200 horse power. The plant to be erected on the West Side will be 500 horse power, and the two will be connected and run with one crew.

In speaking of the matter Project Engineer Patch stated that it had been planned to commence the erection of both plants early this spring, but that recently the plans had been changed, and work would not be started until probably later in the summer. It is the desire of the department to first settle the matter between themselves and the Water Users' association relative to the increase in the capital stock.

HUGH ENGINES FOR S. P.

A Chicago dispatch states that probably the most remarkable locomotive order in the history of railroads is being delivered to the Southern Pacific. It consists of 33 freight engines of the Mallet compound type. Twenty-one of these are of the same size as two which are now at work on the mountain division of the Southern Pacific. These engines weigh 200 tons, and are in fact two locomotives in one. A peculiar fact is that some of the railroads between the eastern works and the western destination refused to haul them over their tracks, fearing both for the tracks and the bridges. Despite this fact, the Southern Pacific ordered 20 locomotives of this kind and weight, knowing that they were not especially hard on track. Each of the monsters cost \$30,000.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE

The Herald is getting a special telegraph service. It comes from Fort Klamath, and W. E. Bowdoin, the popular job printer, is knight of the key at this end of the line. Mr. Bowdoin has a special attachment to his telephone, and by throwing a switch he can convert the line between this city and Fort Klamath into a telegraph line. Daily he sends and receives messages with the Fort, and to make it more real, has lately been receiving the local news for the benefit of the Herald subscribers. It bears the distinction of being the first telegraph news service in the county, a fact which history must record, as it chronicles the important facts of this period.

LOCAL OFFICE TAKES \$9,683.20 SINCE NOV. 31, 1908.

Must Beat Record of Last Year by \$316.80 or No Free Delivery. Emmitt Confident

Postmaster Emmitt has just announced the postal receipts at the local office for the year ending November 30, 1909. \$9,683.20 were the receipts up to that date and for the eight months from March 31st to November 30 the receipts totaled \$6,388.50. In order that there may be free delivery in this city next year the total postal receipts for the year extending from March 31, 1909, to March 31, 1910, must reach at least \$10,000. This means that in the next four months the receipts must be \$3,611.20. That means that the number of stamps sold and other money taken in at the local postoffice must reach \$316.80 more than the amount taken in for the same period of the previous year. The average monthly receipts for the past eight months will have to be increased by \$104.20 during the coming four months. Postmaster Emmitt is confident that this will be accomplished quite easily, since the receipts for the Christmas mailing are unusually large each year, and tend to raise the average of the month several dollars.

When the \$10,000 mark is reached then Klamath Falls will have free delivery throughout the city. This will necessitate the numbering of all the houses and the putting up of the names of the various streets at each corner. Too much care and thought cannot be taken in the carrying out of this work. Throughout the country various cities are now suffering useless inconvenience and annoyance owing to the careless manner in which the houses on the various blocks were numbered, making it well-nigh impossible to find a certain number unless one walks the entire circuit of the street. This matter should be taken up by those interested in the welfare of the city at the earliest possible time.

NEWEST NOTES OF SCIENCE

An application has been filed in England for a patent on a secret process of producing ammonia from the air.

Several German steel makers are experimenting commercially with producing the metal in the electric furnace.

A mixture of fifteen parts of formaline, twenty of milk and sixty-five of water makes an effective fly poison.

Japanese factories produced 260,000,000 pounds of paper last year, and that nation imported 48,000,000 more pounds.

The combined output of the Niagara Falls electric power companies is estimated at 500,000,000 kilowatt hours annually.

Brick is manufactured in every state of the Union, Illinois being the leading producer in quantity and New York in value.

Texas produced more than a million barrels less of petroleum last year than the year before, a decrease of about 10 per cent.

It takes a volume of 400 pages to contain the geological survey's report on the mineral resources of Alaska.

A new Swedish dirigible torpedo, operated by electricity, has a range of 5,000 yards and a speed of thirty knots at any depth.

NEWEST NOTES OF SCIENCE

All the asbestos mined and sold in the United States last year was produced in Georgia and Vermont, a total of 936 tons.

The chief industry of two towns of the Rhine province of Germany is cutting and dyeing native agate to make semi-precious jewels.

Attendants in the New York Zoological garden successfully filed 17 cavities in the teeth of the institution's largest crocodile.

China has taken up the manufacture of window glass, and the product, which is a novelty to the natives, is becoming popular.

A completely equipped first-aid hospital will be added to every passenger train operated in Prussia and Hesse by the government.

The engineering department of the University of Michigan plans to add a course in navigation, provided enough interest be shown.

The work of construction on the first steel plant in the Western Hemisphere south of Mexico is progressing rapidly at Corral, Chile.

An Oklahoma carpenter has been granted a patent on an oil reservoir to be attached to a saw to slowly lubricate it while in use.

The Spanish river, Guadalquivir, is being widened and deepened to permit large vessels to reach Seville, 72 miles from the coast.

Gold, silver and copper have been discovered on the Fiji Islands, where there never has been mining of any sort on a commercial basis.

A physician connected with a hospital at South Bethlehem, Pa., used his electric automobile to operate X-ray apparatus almost every day.

A London veterinary hospital has a new ambulance for dogs in the form of a kennel mounted on bicycle wheels and drawn by a motorcycle.

A double hook for the top of a clothes line prop to prevent it from falling and dropping wet clothing to the ground, has recently been patented.

A test was made recently in England of an eight-cylinder engine that is designed to work at pressures as high as 1,000 pounds per square inch.

Though it is common in other Indian ports, the black rat is never seen in Madras, and in that city the plague never appears as an epidemic.

At the end of May there were 398 tin plate mills and fifty-two sheet steel mills in operation in Wales, and they were giving employment to 22,500 persons.

The production of salt and gypsum from lakes in South Australia is becoming one of the most important minor industries of that commonwealth.

A folding doormat on the principle of the lazy tongs has been invented by a New York woman. Side rods prevent it from being closed when in use.

A French meteorologist claims that he can forecast the general weather conditions for many portions of the world as much as six months in advance.

A quick-witted amateur photographer in Philadelphia recently snapped an aeronaut as he was falling from his parachute, which had failed to open.

Government engineers have reported that Seattle can be made a seaport by cutting a canal to Puget sound by way of Salmon bay at a cost of about \$3,500,000.

French chemists have succeeded in obtaining a gluten as a by-product

of corn, which may be used as food or in the manufacture of celluloid, glue and sizing.

Every switch in the yards of the new Pennsylvania railroad terminal at New York will be controlled from a single electrical switchboard, which will cost \$500,000.

Horses seldom suffer from decayed teeth.

Rubies are practically indestructible except by fire.

Japan is building her first home-made locomotives.

Prussia supplies about one-half of the world's demand for zinc.

There are "blind spots" on the tongue which are insensible to certain flavors.

Brazil has 39 telephone systems, supplying less than 10,000 subscribers.

Denmark exports nearly \$15,000,000 worth of butter to Great Britain each year.

England has over 600 women doctors, of whom about 200 practice in London.

Twenty-seven great reclamation projects are now under way in the United States.

Gas engines are now in use for auxiliary purposes on a dozen British battleships.

More than 200 merchant vessels of the world are now equipped with wireless telegraphy.

Algeria prohibits the importation of medicines not authorized by the Paris Ecole de Pharmacie.

Pennsylvania alone produces more coal each year than any foreign country except Great Britain.

Six balloons for observation and signaling purposes have been supplied to each German army corps.

The waste in coal mining, according to the geological survey, loses forever one-half as much as is marketed.

British Guiana produces over \$1,650,000 worth of rice a year, rivaling the colony's output of gold in value.

A subway for electric cars, to cost \$3,000,000, will be built under the harbor of Sydney, New South Wales.

According to a dispatch from Carson City, Nev., sage brush may some day prove to be extremely valuable. A Chicago chemist, after several years of experimenting, has discovered that the desert plant contains tar, acetic acid, wood alcohol and several other products, besides producing distillate and charcoal.

Frank E. Heffernan, who formerly ran the Panel restaurant into the ground, is now over in Medford, and has invented an appliance for flying which is considered almost perfect, according to reports. The novel feature of the invention is a parachute attachment to be used in case of accident or while descending. It is to be hoped that the invention is as brilliant as the inventor.

Superintendent H. G. Wilson was in the city from Klamath Agency for a few days this week. He states that few days on business. He states that they expect to have their new building completed within a month.

Ernest McElroy and A. J. Morey came up Monday from Merrill, and are stopping at the Livermore.

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All regular courses begin January 4th and end February 11th. Farmers' Week February 14th to 18th.

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A special feature is the Farmers' Week, which comes this year February 14th to 18th. Lectures, discussions, and a general reunion.

For further information address Registrar, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

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