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The Tillamook Headlight.
Fred C. Baker, Publisher.

Cruelty to the Horse.

The horse, the most useful of all animals, is the one marked for the most of men's ill treatment. For the most part housed in ill lighted, ill ventilated and ill smelling quarters, worked to its full capacity, cared for only to the degree that selfish interests prompt, the animal is delivered over as the unprotected object of the unrestrained passions of man. The average man fails apparently to understand that animals have a nervous system, among them to a marked degree the horse, and that were he to govern his own temper he could with a little patience get control of the horse's nervous system, and make out of it a servant vastly more efficient than it is under the system in which he beats and jerks and drives it to distraction.

A short walk in any city will discover many blind horses. Why? There are no blind cows, comparatively. And yet the sight of the one that is as good as that of the other. The difference is simply that the horse from the beginning has been abused, ill housed, overworked and worked under conditions that have driven him blind. His eyes are shut in by blinders at each side, for which there is no use but to satisfy the caprice of fashion of man. So, his vision interfered with, and deprived of air, the wonder is that with the other treatment he gets he is not blind after. Besides this, in other cases his neck is almost pulled out of joint by overhead check reins that raise his face to the air and turn his eye balls to the glare of the sun unprotected. Or, on the other hand, deprived of check rein, he is hit with a curb that pulls his jaws to his breast and tortures him in this fashion. And then according to the prevailing fashion of the day, he is subjected to that most cruel of all practices, docking, which not merely tortures in the practice, but leaves him to the torment of flies for the rest of his life. It is the merciful man that is merciful to his beast, and if it is the merciful that obtain here, we have, as a people, some way to come before we get that blessing.

Cheap Power for Industry.

Few people dreamed, when the project of utilizing the power of Niagara by means of colossal dynamos was first seriously considered, that the success and popularity which it has since attained were possible. It was a pioneer enterprise as an engineering proposition, as so in a commercial one. Several countries which have profited by that famous venture had not been then foreseen, and even the trolley was in its infancy. The revelations made by H. W. Buck in "Cassier's Magazine" for December concerning recent developments at Niagara should be viewed in the light of these facts, and, thus regarded, are certainly amazing. Indeed, many persons who in a general way have been familiar with the achievements of the Niagara Falls Power Company will probably find some of his details new as well as instructive.

The first of the two power houses on the American side contained ten 5,000 horsepower generators, and the second, in which eleven will be installed, is expected to be in full working order by the close of the present month. The capacity of the whole plant, 105,000 horsepower, will then be greatly in excess of that of any station developing electricity by either stream or water elsewhere in the whole world. Nevertheless, the demand for current has grown so steadily that work on the Canadian plant of the same company is being vigorously pushed, in order to supplement this output with 110,000 horsepower more.

Already twenty four customers are being served at Niagara, and upward of eighty others within a radius of twenty-five or thirty miles, and several new engagements are already in sight.

It is the character, rather than the number, of these patrons which is chiefly significant. More than half of the establishments at Niagara which are supplied by this corporation are engaged in chemical industries, one of which, the calcium carbide business, requires no less than 15,000 horsepower. In the list of Buffalo patrons the trolley and electric light companies stand at the head, but one also finds there a hotel, five grain elevators, two or three chemical concerns and more than fifty firms or companies which want electricity for strictly mechanical purposes. A few of these shops and factories need only 10 or 15 horsepower (and even that not continuously, perhaps), while other require several hundred, but all of them find it cheaper to do their work with power brought to them from a distance than to generate it on their own premises. This, in fact, is one of the most important discoveries of the last few years.

Mr. Buck says that designers of entirely new mills no longer ask themselves whether it is better to distribute power inside their establishments by electricity or shafts and belts, because they realize the immense economy of the former system. Possibly he is too confident on that score. Still, whether or not the merit of the "electric drive" for interior service is as fully recognized as it should be, this much is true: A good deal is yet to be learned about the advantages of buying power ready made instead of manufacturing it. Mr. Buck says that the customers of the Niagara Falls Power Company get it for about half as much as it would cost them to develop it themselves, to say nothing of the saving of space. Engines, boilers and coal bins take up a deal of room. Inasmuch as Buffalo gets her supplies by a transmission line twenty-five miles in length, she has to pay a trifle more for electricity than local consumers at Niagara do. It is safe to assume, furthermore, that rents and taxes are lower at the latter place than in Buffalo, while the facilities for shipping are practically equal. It is easy to understand, therefore, the selection of sites near the falls for manufacturing purposes during the last few years, and the increasing demand there both for land and power.

COOKS once more happy. Gangloff & Snuffer have just received a shipment of Spotless Flour from Goldendale, Wash.

Fighting the Meat Trust.

It is announced from St. Louis that western cattlemen and local capitalists are about to combine with the Meat Trust at that town to dictate the price of live stock and virtually regulate the retail price at which meat is sold. The first step in this direction is the proposal to re-establishment of the stock yards and packing house industry on the St. Louis side of the river which is now carried on in the town of East St. Louis on the Illinois side of the Mississippi river.

An independent stock yard company, said to be the first in the United States to enter the lists against the meat trust, has been organized in St. Louis and promises to be in operation by the first of the year. The St. Louis Union Packing company, closely allied with and to a large extent dependent upon the stock yards company, will also begin operations by January 1, 1904. Coupled with this announcement comes also the assurance that the men at the head of these enterprises have ample capital to push the campaign against the meat octopuses to a successful conclusion.

The movement which results in the formation of the independent packing companies that are about to enter the lists as competitors of the allied meat-packing concerns had its inception from the protest of the cattlemen of the country framed at a convention held in Kansas City to the effect that they were not getting enough money for their cattle. Their complaint was that the allied meat-packing trusts had absorbed all competitors and was the sole arbiter of the markets of the country, thereby compelling the cattlemen to sell at a price in which there was very little or no profit no matter how high the retail price of meat might be.

The recent decline in the price of live stock has undoubtedly stimulated the movement for competition and for a time at least the independent companies may be able to cope with the trust and compel it to meet the competition in the purchase of livestock. It is to be feared, however, that the independent packing concerns will not remain independent if they interfere seriously with the allied packing concerns. Competition in these days is nearly always followed by combination whenever mutual advantage is to be gained and it will be almost a miracle if the independent companies at St. Louis are not swallowed up by, or rather amalgamated with, the existing meat-packing combine within a few years at most.

The Two Canals.

While the completion of the Panama canal will result in very great benefit to the coast states and incidentally, of course, to the whole country, a project of equal, if not greater, importance to interior states whose products are exported, and especially to the region producing foodstuffs, is the widening and deepening of the Erie canal, so as to admit of the passage of 1,000 ton barges. This great enterprise, for the accomplishment of which the people of New York, at the election in an earlier year, an expenditure of \$101,000,000, will when completed effect a reduction in the freight rate on grain to the seaboard of perhaps not less than 5 cents per bushel.

What this will mean for the grain producers of the west is not difficult to understand. Such a reduction in freight would amount to many millions of dollars annually, a large share of which would go to the producers. It is true the waterway would be closed a part of the year, say an average of four months, but there is reason to believe that this would have no very material effect upon the freight rates. If it should have producers able to hold their grain could do so during the closed season. As it looks to us, the improvement of the Erie canal as proposed would prove of almost incalculable advantage to the western country, among other things tending to increase by hundreds of millions the value of its agricultural lands.

There ought to be no doubt in regard to the carrying out of the project, since it has been shown to be essential to the commercial interests of the port of New York, yet efforts to obstruct the enterprise are to be expected. The railroads, having failed in their opposition to the project with the people, may possibly seek to defeat it through the courts or at any rate to delay it. Such a course would be in accord with their uniform policy toward any enterprise which is in the public interest and would abridge the power of the railroads. Meanwhile the New York state authorities are taking the necessary steps to inaugurate the undertaking.

Debates over the vexed problem of vivisection have been revived in England, but the friends of animals in this country have not been moved to any extravagant outbreak of denunciation of the experiments of physicians and surgeons upon the bodies of dumb and helpless creatures. It cannot be denied that in the last century several unscrupulous investigators practiced hideous cruelties upon animals in the name of science. These researches were carried to an especially horrible excess in France and in Germany. But these old abuses have passed away, leaving hardly a vestige behind, and the doctors of today in civilized countries, as a rule, abhor the needless infliction of pain upon the lower orders of conscious beings, as well as upon the members of the human race.

"Colonel" Ammon, who is now serving a term in prison for his stealings of a large part of the plunder of the Miller, Franklin "get-rich-quick" frauds, need expect no sympathy when he bursts out in denunciation of his dupes and accomplices. He was convicted upon accumulated evidence so overwhelming that there could be no possible doubt that he was one of the chief contrivers of this 520 per cent system of robbery. For a time he was bold and audacious and defied the prosecuting authorities. But witness upon witness, document upon document, made it clear to the jury that Ammon was among the principal conspirators in that scheme of robbery. Miller is convicted felon also. Neither of them has the remotest claim to public sympathy. They plotted to steal the money of credulous rainbow chasers, and they got a great deal of it. Everybody concerned in that felony ought to serve out every day of confinement to which he has been sentenced. The punishment meted out to Ammon and Miller was a wholesome example to evildoers.

Large Stock of Flour just arrived at Gangloff & Snuffer's.
Pride Waldo Hills Flour at Gangloff & Snuffer's.

\$300 Exemption not Effective.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 26.—That there will be no \$300 tax exemption on the assessment of 1904 seems apparent from the laws as they were left by the special session. As the law stands now there is no exemption authorized. The next assessment will be made on March 1, 1904. The act passed by the Legislature repealing the \$300 exemption will not take effect until 30 days from December 23, or on March 23. Therefore, it would seem that no exemption can be allowed on that assessment.

In examining the acts passed by the Legislature at its recent session, an Oregon representative noticed that the exemption law carried no emergency clause. This was called to the attention of Attorney General Crawford.

"It looks as though there will be no exemption in 1904," was Judge Crawford's comment. "Perhaps some way can be found to construe the law so that the exemption can be allowed, but it doesn't look very favorable at first glance."

The assessment of 1903 was made so values existed March 1st of that year. The law repealing the exemption did not take effect until May 21. As the assessors listed property that was taxable on March 1, they allowed exemptions on the 1903 roll. If the same rule be followed in 1904, no exemption can be allowed. In other words, the exemption must fail either in 1903 or 1904, and apparently it must fail in 1904.

Must Use Water.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 26.—To authorize the condemnation of the water rights of riparian owners by irrigation companies is the purpose of one of the acts of the Legislature at its special session. The act has been filed by the Governor and has become a law.

The new law is intended as a completion of section 5030, of Bellinger & Cotton's Code, which section was enacted in 1899. Through some error a portion of that section was omitted before the act of 1899 passed, and the section was defective. The words that were supposed to have been omitted have been supplied and as now amended the section reads as follows:

"Section 5030. Such persons, companies and corporations may also maintain an action for the condemnation and appropriation of the right to the flow of water in any stream from which it or they propose to divert water, below the point of diversion vested in the owners of lands lying contiguous to such stream by virtue of their location. Such action shall be brought in the county where the lands to be affected or some portion thereof, are situated, and the manner of procedure therein shall be similar to that prescribed for the condemnation of lands in chapter 2 of title 41.

"Provided, that no person owning lands lying contiguous to any natural stream shall, without his consent, be deprived of water for household or domestic use, or for the purpose of watering his stock, or of water necessary to irrigate cropland or other such lands, and actually used therefor, nor shall the rights of any prior appropriator without his consent be materially affected or impaired regardless of whether such appropriation was made for use upon riparian or non-riparian lands.

It will be noticed that under the provisions of this act no owner of a water right can be deprived of water for which he has a use. The purpose evidently is to prevent a riparian owner from exercising his proposed right to have water flow in its channel even though he has no use for it.

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