

THE SEATTLE STAR

E. H. WELLS & CO., PUBLISHERS. Every afternoon except Sunday. E. H. WELLS, EDITOR. E. F. CHASE, BUSINESS MANAGER.

Non, John Sherman has the unique distinction of being the only American statesman who ever had his obituary generally published prior to his death. Heretofore, when a prominent public man has been expected to die, the newspaper reporters have kept ceaseless vigil in the house, or on the sidewalk, and no premature death announcement was possible; but in the case of Mr. Sherman the eminent reporter was at fault, for he could not see across the waters into the ship conveying the sick man.

North Carolina is the latest state which reports an epidemic of small-pox within its borders. The advent of the disease was at first mild and little attention was paid to it, but within a week past it has spread rapidly and appeared in twenty different counties. The assistance of the State Board of Health has been called in and an effort will be made by compulsory vaccination to stay the epidemic.

Both Washington and Oregon have had a few isolated cases, but the disease, so far, has been easily stamped out. Too much emphasis cannot, however, be placed upon the necessity for complete general vaccination as the only safeguard against an epidemic of the dread disease.

The importance of cut railroad rates from St. Paul to Seattle at this time cannot be overestimated. Thousands of homeseekers will soon put in an appearance from the Eastern states, and it behoves the people of this city to greet them cordially and to keep as many of them as possible within our "sphere of influence."

All of the local indications are favorable for a rushing spring trade. The incoming bill will add thousands of dollars to the money already in circulation here, and will increase the prosperous conditions now existing. Let a royal welcome be accorded.

The revenue of the British colonies in 1897, the latest year for which complete statistics are available, aggregated \$755,000,000, and the expenditure \$745,000,000, leaving a net balance of \$10,000,000. Mr. Carnegie, who knows so much more than anybody else, says that the British colonies are a great drawback and expense to the United Kingdom, and its great source of weakness. Lord Salisbury laughed at this assertion, but then the British Premier does not, of course, know as much about it as Mr. Carnegie and the advocates of "small America."

The Tacoma News thinks that it is high time that the Sound cities should bury the hatchet and stand together, beckoning in unison to the people of the East to come out to Washington to live.

Now, will the News show its sincere desire for harmony by saying that the name of "Rainier Park" is good enough, anyway, and agree to relegate "Mount Tacoma" to the shades of the troubled past?

The postoffice department collects one cent per pound from publishers on newspapers sent through the mails, but charges nothing for the heavy editorials which most of the morning blanket sheets enclose. Why this discrimination? The tonnage of the morning dailies should be correctly estimated and made to pay proper postal duties if Uncle Sam has to burden his mail bags with their ponderous editorials.

Reports from the East indicate that some of the churches have begun a crusade against "indies" hats, and decline to allow them to be worn during services, on the ground that the people behind cannot see. Such a regulation coming into effect just before Easter may well throw the feminine world into a panic.

There is certainly need for a boiler inspector in this city. When cylinders on sidewalks are blown skyward, and straining boilers groan to the right and to the left, it is high time that some official steps were taken to protect the people.

Let Mr. Hill, of the Great Northern receive due credit for his de-

termination to build up the Northwest by granting low rates to homeseekers. What does it matter if he has some ultimate designs upon the stock of the Northern Pacific, as alleged? The immediate and enduring effect will be for good to Seattle and Puget Sound.

MINING NOTES.

Rich copper prospects have been found in Emery county, Utah, and there is a lively race to stake off claims. Representatives of New York and Boston firms are in Salt Lake city investigating every new story of copper discoveries and are ready to sign upon all prospects that show signs of richness and permanency.

A company has been organized to work extensive placer grounds on the Colorado river, 50 miles below Dandy crossing. It claims to have at least 5,000,000 cubic yards of pay gravel that will run from 19 cents to 50 cents per yard.

Roads from Salt Lake to the surrounding camps are improving and there is no long danger of an ore famine closing down the smelters. Three additional furnaces are to be erected for the Mercury mines, which will increase their output from 600 to 900 tons per day.

The Le Roi, at Roseland, B. C., is now producing 300 tons daily. No ore is being shipped from the War Eagle; in fact, there is a general falling off in all shipments, most of the mines confining themselves to development work for the present.

The bottom of the north shaft in the old workings of the Bertie, Cripple creek, is in pay ore, assaying from \$27 to \$300 gold. Eastern capital has been subscribed for the development of the Phantom, at Whitcomb, in which quartz specked with free gold has been found.

Great activity is reported at Fresno, Cal., where two or three important discoveries have been made. Several veins of gold have been discovered in the Washash group of copper mines. The Copper King is working three shifts in sinking its shaft to the fourth level.

The Arizona Copper company, at Clifton, Ariz., is putting in six new engines, which will save \$150,000 a year in operating expenses. The output of the mines will be increased from 30 tons to 100 tons per day.

FURNACE AND MILL

Great activity continues in furnaces and mills, and plants which have been idle for several years, are about to be put in operation.

The blast furnace of the Poughkeepsie Iron company, at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., will be in operation as soon as repairs are finished. The stack has been idle since 1896.

Crumfold Furnace, of the Reading Iron company, at Emaus, Pa., is being put in position to be put in blast. The stack has been idle since 1892.

The Sharpville furnace, at Sharpville, Pa., was recently blown in.

The Roane Iron company, of Chattanooga, Tenn., is to build a new blast furnace at Rockwood, Tenn.

The Brier Hill Iron and Coal company, of Youngstown, O., recently made a shipment of 47 cars of pig iron to Genoa, Italy.

The Cambria Steel company, of Johnstown, Pa., has declared the regular dividend of 1 1/2 per cent.

The National Tube Works company, of McKeesport, Pa., has received from a mining company at Johannesburg, Transvaal, South Africa, an order for about ten miles of 24-inch steel pipe.

All departments of the plant of the Central Iron and Steel company at Brazil, Ind., are being taxed to their utmost capacity, and still the workers are unable to keep up with its orders.

The shafting works of the Mahoning Valley Iron company at Youngstown, O., are running double turn, the first time for a number of years.

The Federal Steel company of Chicago, Ill., has declared a dividend of 1 1/2 per cent. on the preferred stock.

The Anderson works of the American Steel and Wire company, at Anderson, Ind., are in full operation, with bright prospects for a long and prosperous run.

STATE NEWS.

Aberdeen is to have a brass band. Olympia is to have a siege of opera.

New Whatcom will banquet the legislative delegation.

The assessed valuation of property at Tacoma is \$31,171,526.

The prisoners at Walla Walla are printing a paper called the Bastille Picayune.

The American mill at Aberdeen has started work with a capacity of 50,000 feet a day.

Slater's dry kiln, at Summit, with 400,000 shingles, was destroyed by fire last week.

Work is progressing rapidly on the building of the Port Angeles Eastern railway.

Everett kicks because the postmaster moved the postoffice without consulting his patrons.

AN INNOCENT MAN SET FREE

Was Serving a Life Sentence for Murder.

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 23.—James H. Maricle, of Knox county, the second oldest convict in point of years of service in the state penitentiary here, and serving a life sentence for murder, was declared to be an innocent man by Lieut. and Acting Governor Worthington this afternoon, and granted a free and full pardon. Maricle was sent up in 1884, and had rounded out fifteen years inside the prison walls on the first day of the present month. He is now 56 years of age, a tall man of over 50 years of age. The indorsement of the governor on the paper in the case gives a history of the crime for which he was convicted. The governor said:

The petitioner, James H. Maricle, was tried in 1884 in the Knox circuit court for the murder of one B. C. Pritchard on the 11th day of March, 1883. Now comes D. M. Jackson, T. J. Smith and Mary Hurst and make oath that at the time of the murder the petitioner was not within 25 miles of the place where it occurred, and E. G. Wilson, a reputable and reliable person, makes oath that he is personally acquainted with the above named affiants, and that they are reputable and worthy of belief. The trial jury, of nine of them, state that facts developed since the trial convince them that the finding of the jury was erroneous, and that Maricle is being wrongfully and unjustly confined.

The specifications provide that the best materials are to be used. The contract has been given ten days in which to file bonds, and the work will probably be completed in six months. Other bids were as follows: T. Ryan, \$7,195.50; Stinat & Goetz, \$7,739.00; The Columbia Land company and the Tropical Trading and Transport company, controlled by Minor G. Keith, of Brooklyn. By these acquisitions, it is stated, the banana output of the Boston company will reach 8,500,000 bunches last year. The American Lined Oil company, which has a capital stock of \$2,500,000, and controls 75 per cent. of the crushers of the country, has organized by electing directors and officers. B. F. Miles is the president.

According to despatches from Bangkok the organization has also been effected of the American Sardinia combination. The articles of incorporation of the International Steam Pump company, whose capital stock is \$7,500,000, were filed in the county clerk's office in Jersey City yesterday.

The deepest diving feat ever achieved was in moving the cargo of the ship Cape Horn, wrecked off the coast of South America, when a diver named Hopper made seven descents to a depth of over 200 feet, remaining at one time 42 minutes under the water. An authority states that the greatest depth to which a man has been known to descend is not more than 230 feet—which is equivalent to a pressure of 8 1/2 pounds to the square inch.—Washington Star.

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Spider and Fly" continues to play to good houses every night at the Third avenue theater.

Uncle Sam's Varied Time. Uncle Sam has quite a variety of time at the same time within his expanded domain.

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When it was 9:28 o'clock this morning at Honolulu it was noon today in Seattle and 5:38 o'clock tomorrow morning in Guam. And at various other places displaying the stars and stripes various other times were recorded.

River Full of Salmon. ASTORIA, March 23.—The river is crowded with chinook salmon at the present time, and it gives every promise of being a good season. There are a few fishermen making drifts along the Washington shore, and they are catching all that they can safely dispose of.

Samson was passing the Barbary coast, near Pillar Rock, a few days ago, they saw a fisherman pulling in his net, and he got a fish at nearly every lift.

MUSKRAT IN A MAIL BOX

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., March 23.—Last night the United States Mail carrier Reuben McIntyre was collecting the mail he stopped as usual at the large paper and parcel box near the New Haven railroad station. He unlocked the slide and pushed his arm down into a pile of papers, but suddenly he withdrew it with an exclamation of pain.

The animal had a tag tied to its neck on which were two stamps, showing that it had been mailed, but there was no address. The carrier placed his bag at the opening of the box, and by beating on the tin with a club, scared the animal out and made it a prisoner. He took it to the postoffice. The clerks immediately christened it Rube, in honor of its captor. McIntyre says he thinks the muskrat was put in by some mischievous boys at Chester hill.

Sunshine Better Than Medicine. If you cannot understand why the toothache grows as the sun sinks below the horizon, and why when you are lying in your bed, snoring and getting down to where the pay is as little as 15 cents per joke.

MASSING IN PHALANX

Giant Trusts Are Arranging Themselves Together.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Wall street has heard of some more combinations. Among them are a consolidation of seven of the largest biscuit and cracker manufacturers on the Pacific coast, with a capital stock of \$10,000,000; a combination of ice manufacturers, with a capital stock of \$2,000,000, reported by despatches from Pittsburg; a consolidation of chain manufacturers, which Pittsburg advised said was also in way; a consolidation of the chief woolen mills in the east, with a capital stock of \$100,000,000, to be a counterpart in some respects to the American Woolen company; the worsted mills combination, and a combination of the fruit and vegetable canning concerns in this state, with a capital stock of \$20,000,000.

M'LELLAN GETS IT

Awarded the Contract for the Denny Way Sewer.

The Seattle board of public works has awarded to F. McEllan, the Denny way sewer contract. McEllan's bid of \$22,223.16, is considered low by City Engineer Thompson. The specifications provide that the best materials are to be used. The contract has been given ten days in which to file bonds, and the work will probably be completed in six months.

HE WAS HALF DEAD.

So the Chinaman Claimed Part of His Insurance.

Not long ago a Pittsburg life insurance agent persuaded a Chinaman to take out a policy of \$500, says the New York Tribune. The latter had no clear idea of the transaction, but understood that on paying premiums promptly he would be entitled to \$2500 some time. He began bothering the agent for the money after a couple of weeks had passed, and the agent tried to explain to him that he would have to die before he could get it. The Chinaman felt that he was being deceived, and he was badly hurt. His friends tried to attend to him without calling in a doctor. When they did call one in two days later the doctor was angry. "Why didn't you call me sooner?" he asked. "I don't see him half dead," answered the brother. "Why he no get half?"

SAFELY REACHED PORT.

Advice from San Francisco state that the British ship Carnarvon Bay, out 180 days from Tacoma bound for Queenstown, has arrived safely at her destination. The vessel was only spoken once during the voyage, and grave fears had been entertained for her safety. At the time the news announcing the arrival of the Carnarvon Bay at Queenstown was received, 70 per cent. insurance was offered by the English underwriters.

The Carnarvon Bay sailed from Tacoma September 18, 1896, loaded with 70,000 cents of wheat. No news of the vessel was received until March 14, when it was reported that the ship Alcides had spoken her on November 22, in latitude 35 degrees south, longitude 121 degrees west.

JAPANESE JUSTICE.

Chinese Passengers Have a Hard-Luck Story.

The feeling engendered between the Japs and the Chinese during the late scrap has not all died out, and the local Chinamen all over the coast are very much agitated over the treatment of some of their "cousins" who went over to the orient on a Japan steamer from Seattle. Two of the passengers claim that the report of the death was well founded. Thereupon he telegraphed a confirmation of the rumor, having no reason to doubt the assurances given him. The French Cable company's officials here claim to know nothing regarding the matter. Mr. Sherman's condition this evening continued about the same. He rested comfortably throughout the day, and, if anything, is somewhat better. He expects to go on board the cruiser Chicago today.

MADE PLATED SILVER COINS

NEW YORK, March 23.—Six men charged with making and selling counterfeit silver dollars, and who, according to the secret service men, have passed an enormous quantity of spurious coin in this vicinity during the last nine months, have been arraigned before United States Commissioner Shields and held in \$5000 bail each for examination.

Sisto Incongnoli, who, with his brother, Adelino, of 313 East 115th street, is charged with making the bad dollars, admitted to Chief Hazen that he had learned the formula for making the counterfeits from Antonio Franko, a convicted counterfeiter, who was sentenced last September, and is now serving a sentence of eighteen months.

The four other men, charged with being confederates with the Incongnoli brothers, are Frank Clark, of No. 212 East Forty-fourth street; Harry Gordon alias Big Andy, of No. 214 First street; Petro Lionell and Andrew Sealer.

Chief Hazen said that the counterfeit dollar made by the men was the best specimen of a moulded spurious coin he had ever seen.

It is a silver plated," said Mr. Hazen, "and beautifully milled. It is a coin that has bothered us a great deal. It has gone through the banks into the sub-treasury in unusual amounts."

A Victim of Hazing.

CHICAGO, March 23.—Hazing, as practiced at the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, is now making James J. Mount, of the class of 1903, an invalid for life, if it does not cause results even more serious. He is now in the Presbyterian hospital. The cords of his neck are injured and the doctors think he has been hurt internally.

Mount is the victim of the custom of "passing up," which consists of passing a man in the class room and passing him over the seats to the outer circle. Then the victim is started on a journey in the opposite direction.

Mount has been ill for some time, but during the hazing process, he was tossed back and forth from tier to tier of the seats, and then shot down on the floor, where he lost consciousness.

The faculty of the college have suspended six students for complicity in the hazing.

Never object to chaperones. This is an article of litigation and sympathy in your ears, head and eyes

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Boston advices stated that the Boston Fruit company was now in complete control of the banana business of the United States through the acquisition by it of the business of the Columbian Land company and the Tropical Trading and Transport company, controlled by Minor G. Keith, of Brooklyn. By these acquisitions, it is stated, the banana output of the Boston company will reach 8,500,000 bunches last year. The American Lined Oil company, which has a capital stock of \$2,500,000, and controls 75 per cent. of the crushers of the country, has organized by electing directors and officers. B. F. Miles is the president.

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SAMPSON HITS SCHLEY

Charges Him With Making a False Report.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Rear Admiral Sampson has contributed a chapter to the book "With Sampson Through the War," just issued by W. A. M. Goode. Rear Admiral Sampson holds that the victory over Cervera is not entirely accounted for by the superiority of the American force, and he is inclined to believe that it was due more to excellent marksmanship than to anything else. Regarding the strategy of Admiral Cervera, Sampson is of the opinion that had the Spanish admiral come out during the evening, making his departure to coincide with a passing storm, he would have had a good chance to save one or more of his vessels. Explaining this, Sampson writes:

"If this attempt had been made during darkness it would have enabled one of the Spaniards to have got out of sight of most of our vessels in a few minutes. The result would undoubtedly have been different. Therefore, it is my opinion that had the Spanish admiral come out for the evening the result would have been more successful. The whole night would have helped the Spaniards to evade their pursuers, and especially had the hour been set to coincide with a passing storm, which would have diminished the intensity of our searchlights and would have greatly increased the intensity of the darkness."

ALONG THE WHARVES

Bark Oregon is taking in coal at the south bunkers for San Francisco.

Steamer Elihu Thomson arrived last evening from Tacoma. She is taking on the shipment of boiler material for Honolulu which is left over by the Garonne. The shipment will occupy nearly all the freight space of the steamer below deck. Both the after and forward decks are covered with pieces of machinery weighing many tons. The Thomson will probably sail tomorrow for Honolulu.

Steamer Garonne is still loading freight at the Arlington dock. She is at present being repainted. The cargo to go to Honolulu this trip will be very large. The Garonne will probably sail about the 25th.

The British "cable boat" Electro came over from Vancouver, B. C., last night. She will take on a roll of telegraph cable which is for the Canadian Pacific Railway company at Vancouver. The cable is two miles in length. The cable will be wound on a reel on board the Electro by means of a steam drum.

Steamer City of Tonoka is coaling at the south bunkers preparatory to leaving for Alaska.

The steamer Excelsior sailed last evening for Unalaska and Cook inlet points. Her passenger list was as follows: T. C. Flower and wife, J. L. McPherson, Chas. Applegate, Angel Paul, L. D. Leeper, Thomas C. Booth, Watson Spencer, J. Sills, Mr. and Mrs. M. P. White, W. S. Amy, J. D. Finch, R. L. McLeod, R. F. Millard, C. C. W. Chamberlain, Guy Wilson, Ross Wilcox, Charles Herring, A. B. Bergen, N. J. Nelson, A. J. Dale, George Patten, N. O'Connell, W. F. Hopkins, Eben Smith, Frank Jones, and B. Levrose.

Steamer Dora, of the Alaska Commercial company, arrived last evening from San Francisco. The Dora is on her way to Juneau, where she will carry the mail between that port and Unalaska. She will take on some stores here and leave in a few days.

CAT THAT SMOKES CIGARS.

A Glenwood Pa., man owns the most dissipated cat in America. She used to inhale with delight the smoke from her master's cigar and was easily taught to smoke a daily cigar on her own account, inhaling and exhaling the blue vapor like any veteran smoker. To prevent Kitty's teeth from puncturing the cigar a wooden cigar holder is provided.

HOW JOKES ARE MADE.

The business of joke-making and short-verse writing is a trade in itself, and has its center in New York. In almost every city or large town there are one or two bright wits who have cracked some exceptional jokes which some comic paper has printed and paid for.

In many places there are some local punsters whose efforts are the pride of his narrow circle. But only in New York does this work center itself. When I speak of joke-writing as a business with some, I mean it literally.

There is a coterie of about forty writers, most of whom live in New York, who do nothing but write for the comic papers. They do not wait for a happy inspiration, but make the inspiration come to them. They write jokes and verse for their living, and some of them it is a very good living indeed. These are the men the comic papers depend upon for most of their material, and at least ten of them make from \$40 to \$80 a week "just joke-writing."

Some of these are well known to the public from their names over verses or short sketches. But some of them, again, who write merely short "snubs," are known only to the editor.

It is no uncommon thing for any of these men to turn out from fifty to 200 jokes (brand new, warranted not to fade) a week, and ten bits of verse. A professional writer frequently sits down without an idea in his head. Some turn of speech comes to him—he writes down his joke on a small rectangular slip of paper, just the size to slip into an envelope conveniently. This joke, or his train of thought, suggests another, and on he goes until in two hours he may have written twenty-five.

Then the business part of it comes in. By a system of special book-keeping, he enters the head of each joke in a book, the place opposite the title the paper to which the joke is sent. As a general thing, he will put the twenty-five snubs which he has just finished in an envelope with an addressed and directed envelope inside, and starts the package on its journey around the world of humor.

He sends it first to the paper which pays the highest price, and then in regular order from weekly to weekly, until he has exhausted the list and gotten down to where the pay is as little as 15 cents per joke.

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