

# The Islander.

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## EVENTS OF THE DAY

Epitome of the Telegraphic News of the World.

## THESE TICKETS FROM THE WIRES

An Interesting Collection of Items From the Two Hemispheres Presented in a Condensed Form.

The steamer *Ararua*, from Rotterdam is reported lost off Cape Abjoo. Six members of the crew were saved and fifteen are missing.

Police Officer Bratton was badly hurt while trying to capture two burglars in a store in Tacoma. He fired at one burglar, when another, who was watching, opened fire and shot Bratton in the back of the head. He will probably die.

Edith Chandler, about 11 years old, was drowned in Portneuf river, in Pocatello, Idaho. He threw his hat on the river and tried to get the dog to get it, and, falling in this, he went on and broke through into deep water. The river was dragged and the body found in about an hour.

One of the last official acts of Mayor Baker of Los Angeles, Cal., will be to attach his signature to an ordinance making expectations upon the sidewalks of public streets, entrances to public buildings or the floors of street cars a misdemeanor, punishable by either fine or imprisonment, or both.

Chief Hazen of the secret service at Washington, has issued a circular warning against a new counterfeit \$10 national banknote on the Union National bank of Detroit. The note is the product of the same hand which produced the recent counterfeit on the National Bank of Commerce of New York. One distinguishable feature is that the back of the note is upside down.

Miss Celia Strahm was killed by her brother-in-law, Elden Buraker, at Davis, eighteen miles west of Walla Walla. Miss Strahm was visiting the family, and after the family had retired she went out of the door, and upon returning the noise awakened Buraker, who drew a pistol from under his pillow and shot Miss Strahm. He mistook her for an enemy, whom he had heard was intent on doing him harm.

Japan has a larger carrying trade on the Pacific than the United States, and Americans who are near enough to watch the shifting scenes in this new and rapidly developing contest for commercial supremacy find little matter for pride in present tendencies. This is the statement of United States Consul Hall, of Sydney, contained in his report to the state department upon the opening of the new Japanese steamship line between Yokohama and Australia.

The president has extended the civil service rules so as to include all officers and employees in the federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., though it is to apply to all such government institutions and to all penitentiaries hereafter created immediately upon their establishment. Attorney-General Harmon is subjecting the recent civil service schedule as affecting the department of justice to a rigid scrutiny. The present amendment is to overcome a defect in the rules promulgated and further amendments on similar lines may be expected.

Radical changes in the procedure of the pension office have been made. All claims for increase, save in extraordinary cases, hereafter will be sent direct to the medical division of the bureau, without having to be passed upon by the board of review. This action is taken on the ground that the bulk of increase cases involve only medical action. Hereafter there will be no necessity for cases before the board of review being passed upon by three or four examiners. Commissioner Murphy has fixed the number of examiners, who must review each claim at once.

The Mexican government, recognizing the increasing importance of its west coast commerce, is determined to improve the harbors. Arrangements have been made to raise a considerable sum for this work, in addition to the \$400,000 for the improvement of Oatmeal and Salina Cruz, the eastern and western termini of the Tehuantepec road. The move to improve the harbors is also caused, it is said, by the rapidity of railroad building toward the Mexican Pacific coast, which will open fertile country and develop a large commerce through the ports below Mazatlan.

A strike instituted at Georgetown, Mass., has thrown out of work 200 men, and promises to embrace the entire shoe factories of the town. A threatened cut in wages was the cause of the strike.

The constructors of the Siberian railroad have undertaken to build a line through Manchuria, starting from a point on the river where the Siberian line crosses the trans-Baikal line and terminating at Mikolskaya, Russia. The ministerial press of St. Petersburg points out that this line will make Russia the intermediary of peaceful civilization between Europe and Asia.

Notice has been posted at all the Philadelphia and Reading coal and iron collieries, numbering forty, and also at a number of individual collieries, that work would be suspended for a week. Twenty thousand men and boys will be idle.

The executive committee of the monetary conference with headquarters at Indianapolis, Ind., are sending out a call to all commercial organizations who intend to send delegates to the conference. It is now believed that about 600 delegates will be in attendance.

## ARMS FOR CUBA.

Steamers *Dauntless* and *Commodore* Apply for Clearance Papers.

Washington, Jan. 1.—For the first time since the present struggle in Cuba began this government has given permission to customs officials to clear for Cuba a vessel loaded, according to manifest, with munitions of war, presumably for the insurgent army.

Yesterday the secretary of the treasury received a telegram from the owners of the *Dauntless* at Jacksonville, stating that they would apply to the collector of customs at Jacksonville for a clearance to a Cuban port with a cargo of arms, but the orders required by the statutes would not be taken. The question was asked whether under these circumstances papers would be issued. Later a telegram was received from the collector at Jacksonville stating an application to clear the *Dauntless* for Neuvius, Cuba, with a cargo of arms, had been made, and asking instructions.

This morning the secretary replied substantially as follows: "If the master of the vessel and the owners, shippers and consignees of the cargo comply fully with the laws and regulations concerning the manifest and take the oaths required, you may grant a clearance to Neuvius, Cuba. Oaths must be taken and subscribed in writing, as required by section 4197, 4198 and 4200 of the revised statutes."

The port named as the destination is on the northern coast of Cuba and is occupied by Spanish forces. Treasury officials therefore are of the opinion that the oaths required will not be taken.

Later this afternoon the collector of customs at Jacksonville wired the secretary of the treasury that the steamer *Commodore* had applied for clearance papers upon practically the same statement of facts as in the case of the *Dauntless*. In response the secretary wired permission to issue papers to the *Commodore* in substantially the same terms as were named in the former case. Up to the hour of closing the department no information had been received as to the movements of either vessel, or whether the conditions imposed had been accepted.

## FIFTY YEARS IN OFFICE.

The Long Service of a Pennsylvania Postmaster.

Philadelphia, Jan. 1.—Joseph Strode, of Millin county, is the oldest postmaster in the United States; that is to say, the oldest in continuous service, for he has held the position of postmaster at Strode's Mills since 1845, despite changes of administrations, political upheavals, the war and the silver agitation.

Strode's Mills is a pretty little village in the central portion of the state, surrounded by rich farming lands and valuable ore and sand mines.

Joseph Strode is in his 83d year, and it is believed he will hold the job until he is too old to fill it. He is the pride and joy of the postoffice department in Washington, which placed his picture in the government display at the world's fair.

The Strodes are an old noble family. They came from England in 1650 and settled in the valley of Virginia. In 1778 Joseph Strode, the present postmaster's grandfather, came to Pennsylvania and settled in the vicinity of what is now Strode's Mills.

The oldest postmaster is a Republican and has never missed voting since he was allowed to.

He has never been ill, and is possessed of all his faculties. He was appointed during the administration of President Polk.

## A Village Bank Looted.

St. Louis, Jan. 1.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from Des Moines, Ia., says: Word comes from Sully, a small town near Newton, that robbers looted the bank at that place last night. The bank was incorporated in 1891 with a capital of \$5,000. The deposits were about \$17,000. A. S. Smith is president and L. A. Sherman is cashier. Details of the robbery are hard to obtain, because the town has no telegraph connection. It is reported the robbers entered the bank, blew open the safe with dynamite and carried away an amount of cash estimated at from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

## Killed an Innocent Man.

Salem, Ind., Jan. 1.—Detective Sexton and Deputy Jailer Brown, of Louisville, Ky., received information that Richard Brooks, a scoundrel prisoner from Louisville, was at the home of Richard Land, four miles from here, and went to the house. Land, seeing the party was armed, ordered his hired man, John Rippey, to get a gun and robbers entered the house. The officers gave themselves up and are in jail. Brooks was not at the Land home.

## Caused Insanity.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Fred L. Wood, a convict in San Quentin prison, who recently inherited a fortune of \$80,000 from the estate of his father, a Chicago millionaire, is insane. He became violent in his cell Monday night, and had to be forcibly removed to the receiving hospital. It is thought the news of his fortune, together with the constraint attendant upon his confinement in the penitentiary, is the cause of his insanity.

## Taking Strikers' Places.

Leadville, Colo., Jan. 1.—Two carloads of Missouri miners arrived today to take the places of strikers in the mines. The newcomers were escorted to the mines by a strong military guard. The streets were crowded, but beyond hostile remarks, there was no demonstration.

An outfit temple will be built in San Francisco, by theosophists, and funds have already been subscribed.

## EXECUTION AT MANILA

Dr. Rizal, a Revoltist, Publicly Shot.

## VIGOROUS REPRESSION POLICY

Rizal Was the Author of the Constitution of the Philippine League—A Noncombatant.

London, Jan. 1.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard says: The government authorizes General Polaveja, captain-general of the Philippines, to borrow several million dollars from the banks at Manila and Hong Kong, to continue the campaign until the cortes meets.

Dr. Rizal was shot at Manila today in the presence of an immense crowd. He was sentenced under General Polaveja's new policy of vigorous repression and summary carrying out of sentences. General Polaveja greeted himself during the execution. Great precautions were taken to prevent a popular demonstration.

Dr. Rizal reconciled himself with the church of Rome, and begged hard to be allowed to take part in a civil marriage with his mistress. His request was refused, as well as the petition of his relatives to be allowed to take charge of the body, lest the funeral should be made a pretext for a demonstration.

On his trial by court-martial, Dr. Rizal admitted he was the author of the constitution of the Philippine League, the object of which was revolutionary, but denied that he had taken any active part in the rebellion.

## BUSINESS AND PATRIOTISM.

California Advertising Arch at the Inauguration of McKinley.

Stockton, Cal., Jan. 1.—Colonel Henry Shaw, of this city, has an original idea for paying a tribute to the office of president of the United States, and at the same time advertising in an artistic and effective manner the resources of California. Colonel Shaw's novel project toward the cost of which he has already raised nearly \$500, is the erection of a California citrus arch on one of the principal avenues of Washington.

The design provides that the columns, four in number, shall be completely enveloped by oranges and lemons. The bases are to be faced with California onyx and marble. The arch itself is to be of dressed California redwood, trimmed with other California woods, such as laurel, orange and tamarack. On top, on either side, will be exhibited full bearing orange and lemon trees, and in the center a California grizzly bear, rampant.

Suspended from the arch will be a number of crystal globes, to be filled with different varieties of California wines. In each of these an incandescent light will illuminate the wine. Palms and pampas plumes are also to be used for decorative purposes.

## UPRISING IN PERU.

Rebellious Natives Exterminated in a Battle.

San Diego, Jan. 1.—South American papers received here today say that the Indian uprising in Peru has been quelled. The government sent Colonel Parra, an experienced Indian fighter, against Jacobo with a good force of infantry, cavalry and one or two Gatling guns. In small parties the soldiers penetrated into the mountains in pursuit of the savages, whom they encountered in several camps. Battle was given by the Indians against the small force of soldiers, with the result that the Gatlings so depleted the rebel ranks that old Jacobo, their chief, was hunted down with a few hundred braves. Colonel Parra united his command in such position as to rake the camp, and thus practically the entire Indian population taking part in the uprising was exterminated.

The revolution in Uruguay is reported as critical. The government troops have not only been worsted in their encounters with the rebels, but there is a strong movement in favor of deposing President Borda and establishing a triumvirate.

From the state of Vera Cruz, in Mexico, come news of bitterness between Spanish residents and Mexicans and Indians, the latter being strong partisans of Cuba. At Coatepec, recently a priest raised a Cuban flag on his church, and the Spaniards attempted to tear it down. The result was a free fight, in which many heads were broken and one Spaniard was nearly killed. The flag was not removed.

## An Alabama Bank Falls.

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 1.—The Commercial bank of Selma, Ala., failed to open today. It was established in 1880, has a paid-up capital of \$300,000, and undivided profits of \$50,000. The New York correspondent of the American Exchange National, and the Chicago correspondent of the First National, R. M. Nelson, president of the Commercial, has for years been prominent in financial circles. He was considered a conservative banker.

## Ireland Overtaxed.

There was a large meeting in Dublin, Ireland, presided over by the lord mayor, to protest against the overtaxation of Ireland, as disclosed by a royal commission on the financial relations between England and Ireland. A strong report read at the meeting showed that Ireland is now overtaxed to the amount of \$13,750,000 annually. Resolutions were passed demanding that the government remedy the injustice done to Ireland in the matter of taxation.

## THE BOILER EXPLODED.

Fireman Fatally Scalded at the Medical Lake Asylum.

Medical Lake, Wash., Dec. 31.—At 12 o'clock this morning this town was shaken by a heavy explosion, which was by many thought to be the shock of an earthquake. Some buildings were very perceptibly jarred, and their windows rattled furiously. It was not until after daylight that the cause was generally known, when it was found that one of the boilers at the hospital for the insane had exploded. There were four boilers in use, generally for steam and heating purposes, all inclosed in a brick house at the rear of the hospital, but immediately adjoining. One of these boilers had exploded with such force as to utterly demolish it, throwing fragments in every direction. A large section of it was driven backward against the head of one of the other boilers, driving the latter from its foundation and partly into the rear wall of the house.

Fritz Theilmann, the night fireman, was standing near the boiler at the moment of the explosion, and was blown out into the yard along with the flying bricks, pieces of boiler, timbers, etc., and so badly scalded and internally injured that his life is despaired of. He says everything was in proper shape with the boilers, and he cannot account for the explosion. The boiler-house will have to be entirely rebuilt and the remaining boilers reset on their foundations.

## A DESPERATE SUICIDE.

Woman Throws Herself Under Her Husband's Locomotive.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 31.—Ella Eager, whose body, torn and dismembered, was found on the road of the Shore Line in this city, committed suicide by throwing herself under the wheels of the locomotive which her husband, Engineer Fred Eager, was running. The couple had quarreled two weeks before and had separated. The wife grew moody over her misfortune, and the neighbors say that she often remarked that she wished she were dead.

At 6 o'clock in the evening she put on her things and went out. She went to the station and her husband saw her there just as he had come on for duty, ready to make his run to New London. He did not appear anxious to see his wife, and it is supposed that Mrs. Eager, noticing his indifference, became desperate and resolved on suicide.

The woman walked away from the depot and followed a route along the railroad track. Her husband's train started at 6:55. At that hour she was a few hundred yards from the depot. The train came on with increasing speed and achieved rapid momentum when it came to Mrs. Eager. To carry out her resolve was the work of an instant.

After being killed her body was carried along for 1,000 yards when it was caught in a frog of the track and thrown to one side. The husband sped away on his engine, little thinking of what the machinery under his feet had done.

## MAINTAINS HIS INNOCENCE

American Prisoner in Mexico Claims to Be a Victim of Conspiracy.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 31.—Americans throughout Mexico are watching with great interest the movements of the authorities in the case of Carlos A. Miller, an American citizen and resident of Cuajinicuilapan, state of Guerrero. He is in Belima prison, City of Mexico, charged with the murder of a Mexican engineer named Eduardo Zepeda, at Ometepeo on October 6. Miller claimed from the first that the officers at Ometepeo and in his own town with the unpronounceable name had conspired to bring a murder charge against him and encompass his ruin and death if possible. He claims he knows the identity of the murderers, and offers, if released under guard, to furnish evidence of a wholesale conspiracy in the state of Guerrero not only to do away with him, but to defraud the government out of a large amount. Reputable people of the state forwarded to the government statements setting forth that Miller is all right, and is the intended victim of enemies in public affairs.

## M'KINLEY'S ESCORT.

Chicago Hussars and Cleveland Gays Will Share the Honor.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—When Major McKinley takes the oath of office March 4, his personal escort will be formed of the Chicago Hussars, squadron and the Cleveland Grays, Cleveland's crack organization. The Hussars were asked and promised last night in a big meeting at the Great Northern hotel to accept the honor of the escort.

This matter was considered early by President-elect McKinley. Both of these bodies offered their services. Finally the Grays were selected. The Grays deliberated, and then decided it would be the nice thing to invite the Hussars to share the duty with them. All the members of the escort will be mounted on black horses, and they count on making an effective display. The Hussars will stop over on the way home at New York for one day and perhaps give a New York ball.

Paris, Dec. 31.—There is an exhibition at the Volney Club of 160 realistic paintings of Napoleon's Russian campaign by Yarovitchagin, being a terribly vivid and impressive lesson of the horrors of war. Yarovitchagin had prepared a catalogue passing severe judgment upon Napoleon's enterprise, but the committee of the club prohibited the sale of the catalogue. Yarovitchagin became much irritated, and he will close the exhibition a week earlier than he intended to.

## RETURN OF ANDRADE

Venezuelans Satisfied With Boundary Treaty.

## MINISTER DECLINED TO TALK

No Indications of Coming Trouble in President Crespo's Republic—Lawyer Storror's Views.

New York, Dec. 29.—Senator Jose Andrade, Venezuelan minister to the United States, accompanied by James J. Storror, counsel for Venezuela before the United States boundary commission, arrived in this city this afternoon on the steamer Caracas and left for Washington tonight.

When the steamer arrived at her pier, Mr. Andrade was met by the Venezuelan consul and some of the attaches of the office. When asked concerning the reports which have been printed in reference to the boundary treaty being not acceptable to the Venezuelan government, the minister said: "I have written and telegraphed all I have to say, and I understand it has been published in your papers. I cannot say anything more on this question."

He was asked if it was true that he had been empowered by President Crespo to signify the acceptance of the treaty, and he replied: "That is a matter I cannot discuss." He said there was no sign of disturbance in Venezuela. Everything was very peaceful, and he did not anticipate any trouble when the congress would meet. When pressed to say more about the treaty, he showed the reporters a copy of a Venezuelan paper, which he said expressed his views on the matter.

This newspaper, the *Venezuela Herald*, had several articles on the treaty, and the following is an extract from one of them: "Minister Andrade is going to Washington and takes with him a copy of the agreement. It is, in all essential particulars, the same treaty offered by Venezuela forty years ago. Under the fifty-year clause, the only territory which Great Britain will have is the settlements between the Essequibo and Poornan rivers. By the fifty-year clause we exclude Great Britain from the Orinoco country and the Cayni river, which is the portion of the country that Venezuela has been especially desirous of keeping. Attacks have been made on the government, but they are based on no solid argument, and it surprised us not a little to hear such rumors concerning the boundary question after everything has been settled. The United States has been the friend and representative of Venezuela, or to put it exactly, through its friend, the United States, Venezuela has negotiated the treaty."

Mr. Storror was also disinclined to talk of the boundary question, but said the treaty was satisfactory to Venezuela. He said there were a couple of correspondents who attacked the treaty in the papers, but to use his own words, "they went off half-cooked." Mr. Storror claimed the people are well satisfied with the treaty, and consider it about the best arrangement that could be made. He said public feeling toward the Americans was most kindly, and he referred to the letter written by President Crespo to President Cleveland thanking him for the interest Americans had taken in the Venezuelan matter.

## On the New Orleans Levee.

New Orleans, Dec. 29.—John Hurt, a Montana miner on a trip around the world, was robbed of \$7,500 in German money, a collection of rare coins, deeds to mining property in Butte, Mont., and a gold nugget worth \$200 by several colored women on the levee today. For three hours Hurt was on the verge of insanity, but the police succeeded in restoring his lost valuables and his mental equilibrium and locked up the thieves as well. Hurt has recently visited his family in Germany, and made a tour through the South African mining country. He always carried his valuables in a leather belt. This morning, while making a tour of the levee, he was decoyed into a basement and quickly relieved of his pouch and its contents. Hurt furnished a description of his assailants, and the police did the rest. The old German went for joy on recovering his treasure.

## Rivers Is All Right.

New York, Dec. 29.—At the headquarters of the Cuban junta today General Estrada Palma stated that the Cuban army was now as strong as it ever had been, and the Cubans have full faith in General Rivera, who succeeded Maceo in command. "General Rivera," said General Palma, "has 6,000 armed men, with provisions enough to last six months in his mountain stronghold."

"There will be no general laying down of arms on the part of the Cubans, such as was reported by General Weyler. As for Dr. Zertucha's charge that Maceo was driven to death by despair, by reason of non-support from his Cuban allies in this country, it is simply infamous and unworthy of consideration."

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 28.—Five persons were injured and killed this afternoon in a grade crossing accident. A passenger train on the Central railroad of New Jersey struck a trolley car. T. J. Ware, aged 48, the motorman, was instantly killed. Four people were injured. None of the injuries are serious. The locomotive struck the trolley-car at the front platform, carrying the motorman a distance of fifty feet. The others were hurt by flying fragments of the car.

## THE SULTAN IS OBDURATE.

Absolutely Refuses to Permit Further Interference.

Constantinople, Dec. 30.—The Russian ambassador on Saturday, sitting in concert with representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Austria, had an audience with the sultan, Abdul Hamid, one of many such interviews within the past year, on the same subject, the better administration of affairs in the Turkish empire.

The Russian diplomat began by warning the sultan and the Turkish government that if the revenues owed for payment of the Turkish debt were touched, European control of the finances of the empire would become inevitable. M. de Nelidoff, the Russian ambassador, further informed the sultan that the czar guaranteed his personal safety and engaged himself to maintain the sultan's supremacy in the event of severe measures being necessary upon the part of the powers. The sultan, however, remained obdurate, refusing to consent to any measure of control, financial or otherwise, by the powers.

The Russian ambassador said the condition of the Turkish empire placed the throne and the caliphate in imminent peril. Thereupon Abdul Hamid remarked impressively: "I may be the last of the caliphs, but I will never become a second Kheive."

In addition to these warnings, M. de Nelidoff sent a note to the Turkish government and to the palace. The utmost significance is attached to it in diplomatic circles. He pointed out in precise terms the necessity for the sultan following the advice of the powers and acting in complete agreement with their plans for improving the situation, warning them once more that the sultan's refusal to do so involves the most disagreeable consequences.

The ambassadors of the powers will meet again to discuss the situation, and will reassemble in future twice a week until they complete their recommendations to the sultan and his advisers. The envoys acting together will henceforth maintain the strictest secrecy regarding their deliberations and the action taken or contemplated and will not even inform the envoys of other powers of the decisions reached.

These latest steps upon the part of the powers are once again reported to have produced a profound impression at Kiook and in pursuance of the issuance of an amnesty decree the Armenian prisoners in Asia Minor and this city and vicinity are being released daily in batches of fifteen.

## JUSTICE IN CHINA.

Pirates and Counterfeiters are Promptly Beheaded.

San Francisco, Dec. 30.—According to the latest advices from the Orient Li Ka Chuck, superintendent of the Kanton police, on November 23, seized a large number of counterfeit coins. The chief coiner, Tse Sang, and others, were arrested. An imperial decree from Peking commanded the immediate decapitation of the three named offenders, and enjoins the viceroy to deal with the others as he thinks necessary according to law, as a warning to the people. The officials who effected the seizure were all promoted in rank.

The Canton viceroy reported in another memorial the capture of two notorious pirate junks. In effecting the capture one military officer lost his life. A decree was issued on the 19th of November authorizing the execution of the captives and ordering the officials concerned in the capture to be promoted in rank and that the matter of the military officer who had lost his life be referred to the board concerned for rewards and posthumous honors.

## An Investigation Asked For.

New York, Dec. 30.—Several life insurance companies have asked Coroner Tuthill to make a thorough investigation as to the cause of the death of David Blakely, manager of Sousa's band, who expired suddenly in his office in this city in November last. The body is to be disinterred in order to determine whether certain sums in a Chicago accident insurance company can be collected, Blakely having suffered a severe bicycle accident some weeks prior to his death.

## An Immense Blast Fired.

San Diego, Dec. 30.—The Southern California Mountain Water Company fired the largest blast at Morena made in the history of the state. The amount of rock dislodged was 150,000 tons. Giant and black powder was used. All the deposits of powder which were placed in tunnels at different levels in the hills were connected by electric wires, which completed a circuit.

## A Big Cruiser Floated.

Cronstadt, Dec. 30.—The armored cruiser *Rosin*, of 12,180 tons displacement, the largest vessel in the Russian navy, which ran on a sandbank in the beginning of November and has been frozen in ever since, has been floated after fifty-one days of incessant labor with steam breakers.

## Bombay, Dec. 30.—

The bubonic plague is increasing, there having been 3,054 cases and 1,484 deaths from that disease up to date. The epidemic from the city continues, and the natives are threatened with malarial law unless they conform with the sanitary regulations.

## Hundreds of Cocaine Fiends.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 30.—The cocaine habit has taken such a hold on many residents of Manchester that steps are being taken to obtain the restriction of the sale of the drug. The evil had its inception when a local druggist a year ago made a preparation of cocaine and menthol which could be used as snuff. It was intended as a specific for asthma, but the prescription was passed around, and now hundreds of persons have become slaves to the snuff.

## NORTHWEST BREVITIES

Evidence of Steady Growth and Enterprise.

## ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

From All the Cities and Towns of the Thriving Sister States—Oregon.

A project is on foot in Brownsville to have a free reading-room.

Stockbuyers are paying \$12 to \$17 for 2-year-old steers, and \$15 for cows, in Grant county.

Cattle on the range in Grant county are looking thinner than ever at this time of the year.

Empire City's town treasurer holds \$1,200 town funds, and the city boasts of no indebtedness.

The colored miners at Beaver Hill, in Coos county, are organizing a lodge, supposedly of Masonry.

There are about thirty taxpayers in Wallawa county, who pay taxes on property valued at over \$5,000 each.

Elgin has shipped 787 carloads of grain, stock, wool, lumber and ties in the last ten months valued at \$105,000.

Strange as it may seem in midwinter the bunchgrass is growing on Grant county's hills, says the Canyon City News.

Mr. Herrick expects to have work begun on his cannery at The Dalles in a few weeks, to put it in shape for the spring run of salmon.

S. B. Edson, representing Edson Bros. of Gazelle, Cal., who has been in Lang county for some time buying cattle, will ship about 850 head, eight carloads, to Gazelle. The cattle are mostly 3-year-old steers.

In answer to a request from the Milton board of trade for a conference upon the question of dividing Umattilla county, the Pendleton chamber of commerce has written that the question of division is one for the people of the county; but that, as an association, it is opposed to division.

Last summer P. Boler, who lives in Springfield precinct, in Lane county, raised several hundred bushels of canary seed, and sold it in Portland, Salem and Eugene. He received 4 cents per pound for the seed. It is better than the canary seed raised in California and the other states, weighing considerably more to the bushel.

An old couple, while on their way to The Dalles last week in a two-horse hack, were upset in a snowdrift on a steep grade on Ten-Mile, and went rolling down the hill. A young man went to their assistance tried to get the horses out of the drift, and the horses and hack went tumbling after. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt, nor was much damage done to the rig.

Harold Parker has returned to Baker City from Omaha, after an absence of several months. Last spring Mr. Parker left Huntington with 13,600 sheep, the property of Gutnerie, Foss & Co., of Omaha, to be driven overland to Clark's, a station near the metropolis of Nebraska. Although it took Mr. Parker four months or more to make the drive, he was so successful that he lost but ninety sheep.

A great deal of wheat has been sold in Ellensburg lately.

The city treasurer of Fairhaven has issued a call for warrants numbered from 2970 to 3030 inclusive, drawn upon the general fund, there being funds on hand with which to pay them.

Bunkley citizens are now circulating a petition for the establishment of a wagon road from that town to the Summit mines, and pledges of assistance are said to be numerous.

The aggregate value of real property in Kilkrist county in 1896, as equalized by the county board, is \$1,612,506. The population of the county is 7,500. The county has fifty-six organized school districts, with an attendance of 2,580 pupils.

The Washington state board of pilot commissioners for the Columbia river and bar have submitted their report to the governor of vessels bound in and out of the Columbia river from July 1, 1896, to October 5, 1896. It shows that there were sixty-four bound in and sixty-one bound out between these dates.

The city of Ellensburg has been ordered by the court to make a special tax levy of four mills a year for four years to pay the amount of the judgment in the Lorenzo case, wherein a verdict for damages against the city was rendered, because