

NEWS OF THE COUNTY

Things Heard, Said and Done by Our Neighbors.

Reported by Correspondents of The Gazette and Gathered from Other Sources.

ALBION.

The jingle bells on Santa Claus' sleigh have been ringing merrily, all because of the snow which covers the ground so plentifully.

The Christmas tree at Christian church Wednesday evening was a treat to the little people, and all who attended enjoyed the program.

The epidemic of sickness prevalent here has somewhat abated of late. Tonsillitis, bronchitis, etc., has been the cause of the illness principally.

A delightful entertainment was given at the college Monday night, under the direction of Miss Della Bradley, who teaches elocution here, assisted by the students, the college faculty and pupils from the public school. The program was an interesting one. About 200 were present. The proceeds were added to the sidewalk fund.

The college closed its fall term Monday. A vacation during the holidays will be enjoyed by students and faculty, after which begins the winter term, and it is expected many new students will be added to the roll then.

The public school closed Wednesday for its holiday vacation.

The merchants of Albion have displayed a fine lot of holiday goods and express themselves pleased with the holiday trade, in spite of bad roads and inclement weather.

Protracted meetings are under way at the U. B. church. Rev. Osborne of Walla Walla is conducting the services.

Mrs. Mary Brown, who came from Seattle to attend the funeral of her father, Elmer Barnham at Colfax, returned to her home Monday.

Miss Sadie Shaver left for her home in Rockford Saturday.

Miss Stella Beard is spending the holiday vacation at her home on Clear creek.

Rev. A. Fairchild is the Christmas guest of relatives in Huntsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Woods will leave next Monday for their future home in Oregon.

Engineer Corey of the Moscow branch of the O. R. & N., whose home is near Albion, is in Portland receiving medical treatment.

Mrs. Kate Pearson returned Monday from a visit with her son in Ritzville.

LITTLE PENAWAWA.

Another section of the fertile county of Whitman makes application with this issue of The Gazette to be recognized by its readers as a community which will merit at least a fair share of their approbation. We have not suddenly come into existence. Most of us have been here right along, carrying out the daily program of life—to develop our muscular frames, our financial standing and our common country. We intend to stay.

We believe in the country; in the integrity of its people and the possibilities which lurk beneath the rough surface of its soil.

School has been in progress at the Abrams school house for the past two months. The enrollment has reached 25, and more expected.

Our district has a lively literary society which meets at the Abrams schoolhouse on Tuesday evenings. The significant appellation of "Bunch Grass" has been given to this organization. It was not because the members live in the said particular specie of grass, that the society was thus named, but because they have a fond memory which reverts to the time when the above article did abound—to the old days when they chased the "wiley broncho" and led captive to the snubbing post the unruly two-year-old. Officers for the ensuing month are: President, F. R. Harrison; vice president, C. E. Gingrich; secretary, Miss Ocie Wilson; treasurer, Hanna Moran; janitor, C. B. Crampton. All who desire are invited to come and help enjoy these evenings of entertainment.

Keno Crampton has been investigating the price of hogs this week.

C. E. Gingrich, one of the rustling farmers of this section, believes that cattle raising is a paying business and therefore has lately invested in 35 or 40 head of the horned creatures.

Miss Lulu Cochran, who has been attending the Colfax High School, is spending the holiday vacation with her parents, Mr. and J. M. Cochran, at their new home on Union flat.

On Friday evening, Dec. 19th, a ball, under the supervision of Dan Neelan, was given at the spacious residence of Mrs. B. Moran. A delightful night is reported to have been spent.

The many friends of Len Abrams are grieved to hear of his sudden illness and wish he may be speedily restored to health, for we believe him to be a worthy young man.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gingrich spent Saturday and Sunday visiting relatives near Oncho.

Miss L. C. Mecklen of San Jose, Cal., arrived here last Saturday and has been a guest at the residence of Josiah Crampton for a few days. Shortly she will go to Palouse to visit her uncle, Chas. Mecklen, the well known druggist of that city.

KAMIAIC.

A variety show in weather seems to be the program this winter. Once more a coat of snow has covered the ground and makes the road clear.

Billy Mood of Clear creek is very low with pneumonia and typhoid fever. Dr. C. M. Boswell of Colfax is the attending physician.

Our literary society is about done up—bad roads and lack of interest is the cause.

Everyone is thinking of Christmas now days.

W. Whitney and son William of Woodburn, Oregon, are visiting his brother, Dave Whitney. They will stay until the day after Christmas.

The school vacation began a week sooner than was expected, as Miss Knight had to quit on account of being sick.

W. Skeens of Kamiaic left for Eugene, Oregon, where he will visit relatives and friends. How long he will be gone was not learned.

The agent for a patent fence making machine has been doing some business in this neighborhood lately.

Every one complains about the scarcity of eggs. One can hardly get enough eggs to make a Christmas cake.

This has been a bad winter on stock in this part of the country. The freezing and thawing gave them a chance to rustle more than they would do otherwise, and consequently they are poorer than they would be if they kept to the straw stacks.

ENDICOTT.

Dr. Henry has returned from Roseburg, Oregon, where he was looking after his timber claims.

Christmas eve was surely enjoyably spent, there being three Christmas trees and a dance.

C. M. Gray of Pullman has on our streets Tuesday, looking after his interest in the horse business.

Alex Brown's new livery barn will soon be completed.

Sisk Bros. are receiving car loads of lumber almost daily. Lots of improvement needed.

C. N. Smith has just completed an eight-room house.

There is strong talk of a grist mill here—something Endicott needs.

Mrs. M. A. Sherman is on the sick list.

TENNESSEE FLAT.

Quite a severe snow storm came up suddenly Monday evening. All are hoping for some sleighing.

The Royal Neighbors gave a box social at the Woodmen hall here, last Friday night, which was a decided success. It netted them \$60.

J. C. Throop finished hauling his hay the first of the week.

Rev. Van Patten of Dayton preached at the church here, Sunday morning and evening.

One of J. H. McCroskey's men got severely hurt last Saturday night by the overturning of a load of lumber. He struck the ground on his face and was unconscious for several hours from the force of the fall. He is recovering at this writing.

District No. 51.

The following pupils of the Hubbard school having been neither absent nor tardy and whose department has not been below ninety per cent for the month ending December 19, are entitled to honorable mention: Anna Matlock, Clyde Matlock, Pearl Nelson, Frank Nelson, Maude Reinhardt, Glenn Hunt, Ruby Telson and George Reinhardt.—Newton V. Rowe, Teacher.

AROUND THE COUNTY.

Pullman Tribune: Mr. Tabor who had his eye operated on at Spokane a few weeks ago, is improving all the time and it is believed the sight will be restored fully. He is living with his daughter, Mrs. J. B. Holt.

Garfield Enterprise: The Colfax sportsmen engaged in a friendly warfare with the Garfield boys Saturday. The practice with rifles was at 30 and 50 yards, the Colfax boys, on the whole, having a slight advantage. C. A. Gwinn, having won two turkeys. In the trap shooting the honors were with Garfield, in the persons of Messrs. Arland and Follis, who stood as the best two, in the order named.

Palouse Republic: Daniel Cornwall of Fargo, North Dakota, Saturday purchased the St. Elmo block from the Northwestern Hypotheek bank for a consideration of \$7500. Mr. Cornwall, who is an old man and without family, purchased the hotel for a home, and is here to remain. The building, with the exception of the storeroom now occupied by J. H. Fussy, was immediately leased by the new proprietor to Mrs. E. Brouillard, who owns the hotel furniture, and has been conducting the hotel business since last May, at which time the St. Elmo was opened, after having been closed to the public for two years.

The citizens of Princeton and the country surrounding have concluded that a creamery located at that point would be a desirable thing, says the Palouse Republic, and to that end called a mass meeting which was held in the Princeton school house Saturday evening. The country east of Palouse and in the vicinity of Princeton, is well adapted for stock raising and dairying, and a creamery at that point would undoubtedly be a success.

Pullman Herald: J. E. Devore and wife and S. B. Niles of Dawson, North Dakota, are here becoming acquainted with the great Palouse country. These people are old-time blizzard state acquaintances of Postmaster Allen and family, and may conclude to invest in Washington dirt and "grow up with the country."

Snow Helps Loggers.

More snow fell Tuesday night, which, added to that already on the ground, makes the hauling of logs in the lumber camps above Palouse quite easy and insures a large amount of logs being brought to the river bank. There is great activity in the logging camps up the river and many men and teams are at work cutting timber and sledding the logs to the river bank, ready to be floated down to the mills in the spring.

There is abundance of snow now on the ground, and the work is being rushed ahead, the sledding is good. If the weather continues favorable, one of the largest drives ever known on the river will be made in the spring. Cutting timber began last summer, about two or three months earlier than usual, and more logs have been cut than ever before up to this time of year and large forces of men are still at work.

The purchase of the old Averill mill site at Elberton by a sawmill firm, which will erect a large sawmill there in time to cut lumber next spring, means more lumber making on the river. The mill, which will be built at Elberton, will probably handle two or three million feet of logs this year, while the Colfax and Palouse mills expect to handle from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 feet each. Some fine logs are being hauled to the river bank now and a better quality of lumber than usual is promised for this year.

Unclaimed Letters.

List of letters remaining unclaimed for in the Colfax postoffice, Dec. 26, 1902: Dickerson, Frank P. Ferguson, Gid Harrison, Henry Hamer, Chas. Lisenlu, Miss Gladis Liellinsk ford L Miller, Harry McNeil, May Morgan, Maggie C Nelson, Chas Powers, John Post, T. M. Sherman, John W Sullivan, Miss Lizzie Welsh, Joseph Wright, E. L.

One cent postage will be collected. JAMES EWART, P. M.

For insurance at cost, see J. G. Elliott, Colfax, Washington.

Take your poultry to Moore.

ROADS OF THE SOUTH

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

Can Boast of Some of the Best Roads in the World—The Employment of Convicts on the Highways of North Carolina.

Among the many interesting and valuable articles published in a recent number of Harper's Weekly was the following on highway improvement in the south:

One of the most important, but least conspicuous, movements in the new south is that being made in behalf of good country roads. About fifteen years ago there was a general revival of interest in the building of country roads, and now many communities in the south have systems of roads of which they justly feel proud. Even North Carolina, long known as the Rip Van Winkle of the southern states, has at last awakened and is giving lessons to the outside world in the construction of good roads. It is

no exaggeration to say that the roads of Mecklenburg county, N. C., are the best to be found in the entire south.

The county of Mecklenburg is near the South Carolina line, and is pierced by that division of the Southern railroad which extends from Washington to Atlanta. The county seat is Charlotte, a progressive city of thirty thousand inhabitants. Within a radius of one hundred miles of this city there are three hundred cotton factories, comprising more than half of the spindles and looms operated in the south.

In 1890 the authorities of the county conceived the idea of utilizing the convicts for the improvement of the public roads. Instead of locking up offenders in the county jail or sending them to the penitentiary it was decided to employ them at home in improving the highways. A law was passed authorizing the use of convicts for this purpose. The convicts were organized into a squad or camp, placed under the control of a competent supervisor and engineer, and the work of grading, straightening and macadamizing the roads was begun. A short experience demonstrated that the convict laborers cost the county only 25 cents per day per head, including food, lodging, clothing and overseeing.

The outfit for the road work, consisting of a steam roller, crusher, bins, portable engine, road machine and a screen for assorting the rocks, cost about \$5,000. At present the county has in operation two road outfits and employs about sixty convicts with each outfit. The total expenditure in constructing each mile of macadamized road is from \$1,600 to \$2,500, not including bridges. In summer the convicts live in tents along the road, and in winter they live in barracks. The rock used for the roads is brought from the farmers, who haul and deposit it at the convict camp.

These roads have been in process of construction for twelve years at the rate of about ten miles per year. At present there are more than 100 miles of macadamized roads in the county. The roads radiate in all directions from the center of Charlotte and extend ten or fifteen miles to the county limits. The roads of this county have become so famous that delegations from many other states have come here to inspect them.

Many good road organizations exist in the south. Professor J. A. Holmes of the University of North Carolina has traveled in many states, giving illustrated lectures on road construction and organizing good roads clubs. His campaign has borne much fruit, and the south can now boast of some of the best and most picturesque roads in the whole world.

Necessity For Drainage.

In the improvement of earth roads one very important essential often overlooked is the necessity for drainage to carry off the surplus water before it can soak into the surface, says Good Roads Magazine. Good roads can be constructed even in a prairie country, and by the adoption of improved methods immediate recovery from the effects of heavy rains may be insured. Tile draining is very effective, and with even a shallow dressing of crushed stone or gravel on the surface of an earth road wonderful improvement can be secured.

Should Last For Ages.

There is no reason in the world why a road should not last for ages if it is built of good material and kept in proper repair. If this is not done, the money spent is more than wasted. It is more economical, as a rule, to bring good materials a long distance by rail or water than to employ inferior ones procured close at hand.

Serviceable For Country Roads. Burned gumbo is a very serviceable material for use on country roads. It is not as durable as crushed stone, but is superior to dirt.

Profitable Fattening Feed. A bunch of 400 steers fed at Clarendon, Tex., last winter netted the feeder \$10 per head profit. The cattle were fed on kaffir corn and sorghum, with a small percentage of cottonseed cake. Nearly every farmer in the county could raise plenty of Kaffir corn and sorghum to finish a few head of cattle, and cottonseed cake can be secured from the mills without great expense.

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BEEF ON THE FARM.

Farmers of the Southwest Urged to Consider This Subject.

Several years ago the ranchmen of Texas and the adjoining states began to improve their herds, and now in the production of first class beef cattle the southwestern states rank with Iowa, Illinois and other breeding states farther north. As the big ranches are cut up into stock farms the tendency is to grow fewer cattle and give them better care. The markets require a better grade of beef than was formerly supplied, and it is only by the introduction of good blood that beef producers are enabled to meet the demand.

In the southwestern states and particularly in Texas the production of beef is chiefly confined to the grazing sections. Farmers grow comparatively few cattle, and these are usually sold as yearlings or two-year-olds, sent to the grazing lands and subsequently fed at the cottonseed oil mills for market. Finishing for the shambles as practiced by the farmers of Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois is practically unknown. Some cattle are finished for market in the southwest, but they are first purchased by the hundreds by men who are engaged in fattening cattle, and the finishing process is carried on at the oil mills where cottonseed meal and hulls are readily obtained.

In some sections of Texas and the adjoining states the cattle in the hands of the farmers are mainly common scrubs. Often there is a greater or less (chiefly less) admixture of Jersey blood, but in many instances the Jersey characteristics are not sufficiently developed to result in the production of good dairy cattle. It is a well known fact that there are some poor milk individuals among Jerseys, just as there are some poor beef animals among Short-horns and Herefords. In all cases these common or mixed dairy breeds fail to make good beef cattle. In consequence the farmer must accept from \$5 to \$8 less for each yearling steer than he would for an animal better suited for the block.

The farmers should and could raise the greater part of the beef grown in the southwest, and whenever practicable they should mature it on the farm. The opening of the new packing houses at Fort Worth will provide a home market for finished animals.

There are several breeds of what are called dual purpose cattle, such as Red Polks, that not only give a good yield of milk, but make excellent beef. There are milk strains of Shorthorns that make high class dairy cattle, and of the dairy breeds some are capable of development into fairly good beef animals, notably the Holsteins.

Where a man proposes to devote his time exclusively to dairying or to raising beef cattle it is better to avoid the dual purpose types and select cattle of the best obtainable breed for the special line of breeding he desires to follow, but the average farmer has neither time nor inclination to go into special breeding on an extensive scale. He wants milk and butter for his family and some to sell in the market or to the nearest creamery. By making the proper selection of animals he can have all the milk and butter he can handle and still breed animals that will bring good prices when sold to the butcher or shipped to market.

One acre of land in the farming districts of Texas properly cultivated will support a cow the year round. In the western grazing sections ten acres per head are required, and in some instances as much as twenty-five acres are necessary. The farmers can raise good beef and, with a little attention to pasturage, produce it cheaper than it can be grown on the range. It is their own fault if they fail to make the best of this opportunity.—Walter B. Whitman in Farm and Ranch.

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AN UMBRELLA ROOF.

How to Make a Shady Nook Where You Can Play House.

This is how to make an open air playhouse of a large umbrella: Tie a strong piece of twine securely to the end of each of the ribs and tie the loose end of each piece of twine around the notch cut in a pointed wooden peg a short distance from its top. This will give an umbrella with a fringe of dangling pegs. Open the umbrella and

fasten the handle securely to a long, sharp pointed stick, binding the two together with strong twine. First run one end of the twine down the length you intend binding, allowing enough to tie at the bottom; then commence binding at the top over all three—the umbrella handle, the twine and the stick. Wind the string around very tight, and when you reach the bottom tie the twine you hold to the loose end of the length under the wrappings. Examine carefully and be sure the handle does not slide or twist on the stick; then push the point of the stick down into the ground at the place decided upon for the playhouse. If you are not strong enough to erect the house by yourself, ask some companions to lend a hand and help sink the stick firmly in the earth. When this is accomplished, stretch out each length of twine in turn and drive the peg in the ground. You will need a wide ruffle of some kind of material long enough to reach around the outer circle of pegs when it falls from the umbrella. The stretched twine will hold the ruffle out, forming an odd little playhouse with a smooth, round

roof and drapery walls. Plait the ruffle and pin it on the umbrella with safety pins; also fasten it at the bottom to each peg. Newspapers pasted together and made of double thickness may take the place of woven walls if more convenient, but be careful in handling the paper, as it tears readily. The longer the pole the higher you make your house and the longer the strings must be, consequently the larger the house.—Demarest's Magazine.

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