The Yakima Raid And The Coal Famine

LUTE PEASE in the Pacific Monthly Gives Graphic Account of this Interesting Event in North Yakima's History.

I. B. Turnell was a refreshing exception. A big, tall, two-fisted American, very square of jaw, very wide between the eyes, and very wide across the shoulders, he looks you in the face with a jolly smile, and gives you his views evidently without reservation because of man, God or the devil. The son of pioneers of Wisconsin—that state of La Follette and railway legislation—he became a brakeman in his youth. Having been slightly crippled in an accident, he studied telegraphy, and thereafter continued in the transportation service as station agent and telegraph operator. At one time he managed a railway coal mine in Illinois.

They were succeeding beyond their expectations when the coal shortage began to threaten them with ruin. Having invested their all, they did not secure a large stock of coal in advance of the famine, not dreaming of being unable to get what they wanted as needed. Using from one to one and a half tons a day, when coal arrived in single carloads and consumers had to wait all day in line, only to get sometimes not more than 500 pound portions, the Turnells became anxious. To be without coal meant to be without guests, and without the latter, no means to pay rent or help.

I. B. TURNELL,
The Man "Who Would Have Coal."

Finally, when but a day's supply remained at his shed, Turnell visited Freight Agent Meeks, of the railway company, and Agent Hessey, of the coal company. They could offer him no other consolation than to say that the Northern Pacific was doing the best it could. Thereupon Mr. Turnell took a look around the yards and saw a carload of engine coal resting quietly upon a siding. He hurried over to the drayage company and said:

"I want a couple of your best teams to haul coal from a car I have out here."

Before being discovered by Agent Meeks he had secured two full loads. Seeing Mr. Turnell thus engaged, other teams cvrowded up:

"That your coal?" asked the drivers.

"Looks like it—doesn't it?" returned the facetious hotel man.

"Sell us some?"

"Not a pound."

"How can we get some?"

"By doing as I am doing."

Thereupon, as Turnell's teams drove away, the others started to help themselves; but by this time Agent Meeks had been warned and he stopped them with resolute language. However, that afternoon four cars of commercial coal were set off on the siding, and the town rejoiced.

"I have always found," said Mr. Turnell, "that when you can't get attention by talking soft, talk hard or do something to make the other fellow mad, and he'll begin to take notice."

Securing his weight slips from the scales Turnell went over to the Northwestern Improvement company's office and paid the surprised agent for the coal he had taken.

That happened December 14th. Thereafter, until the holidays, a fair supply of coal was furnished Yakima; then the company shut down on the shipments. On January 3d the hotel man again found himself in desperate straits. Again he found it impossible to buy coal; again he raided a car of railway coal. He had secured one big dray load, and was rapidly getting another, while other teams gathered anxiously around. Suddenly Agent Meeks appeared.

"What are you doing?" he demanded.

"Shoveling coal," replied Turnell, pausing to wipe his brow.

"You're stealing it; stop or I'll have you in jail."

"Go ahead and get your warrant; I'll go to jail," returned Turnell, resuming work.

"Stop," shouted the resolute Meeks, now addresing the drayman, "or I'll have you prosecuted."

In dismay the drayman dropped his shovel.

"Now put back what you have on your wagon."

The drayman hesitated.

"Drive off," ordered Turnell, "I've got enough, anyway.'

"Don't you dare to do so,' 'cried Meeks. Again the drayman hesitated. Thereupon the lawless and square-jawed Mr. Turnell jumped upon the box and drove the team away to the scales himself. The following Sunday morning, rising very early, he discovered that the company was about to set a car of commercial coal upon the siding. Without waiting for a line to form, or the agent of the coal company to arrive, he helped himself to six drayloads.

"What!" cried Mr. Hessey, when Mr. Turnell tendered payment, "you got away with six loads when there's hundreds waiting their turn at it? Do you know what I think of you—you're a hog—that's what you are."

Mr. Turnell smiled.

"Perhaps you don't care what I think of you," persisted the indignant agent.

"Young man," retorted Turnell, "be calm—I wanted coal." Afterwards he remarked, "If other people were willing to be put off and be doled out to until they were ruined or frozen, I was not. I know there has been no legitimate excuse for the coal shortage and car shortage everywhere. I believe that greed and mismanagement from headquarters back in St. Paul and New York are at the bottom of it. Every subordinate official has adopted Jim Hill's motto, 'Maximum load with minimum haulage expense,' and lived into them until it has become a crime to run a train of less size than will absorb every ounce of the engine's power. Consequently there has been nothing but trouble and delay, and cars take three or four times the number of days to make hauls that used to be required for the same trips." In which statement Mr. Turnell repeated in effect what the interstate commerce commission has reported.

It was the day following Mr. Turnell's last "raid" that the committee of citizens visited the mayor, and the warning telegram was sent to the Northern Pacific headquarters at Tacoma.

Next day the crowd of drays began to assemble about the railway yards before daybreak. Noon came and no reply had yet been received from Vice President Levy.

All day the crowd increased. Farmers and orchardists from many miles out of town fonegathered with townspeople, stamping their chilled feet, rubbing aching ears, swapping stories of hardships suffered at their homes, or exchanging comments.

"That man Turnell's been getting coal," some one remarked. "We ought to have as much gall as he has."

Lined Up At the Cars After Coal.

Shortly after 2 o'clock a freight pulled in from the west and shunted a couple of coal-laden cars upon the coal company's siding.

"Look at that!" cried the crowd, "there's only a sackful apiece for us."

But the teams peacefully lined up for loads, and Coal Agent Hessey had just set about its distribution, when the shout went out:

"There's a coal train up the track!"

Scores of wagons immediately raced for it, but as the train proved to be a long one, there was room for all. Every dray, express and lumber wagon in town was pressed into service, while men and women ran from one teamster to another to engage the hauling of small portions of the prescious loot.

Te engineer and fireman had uncoupled the engine from the train and run it down to the station while they went to lunch, so the rapidly increasing crowd was making the coal fly almost before the railway people were aware. Says the Yakima Herald:

Gatheri ng Coal.

"Hundreds of men and boys, women and a few girls, sailed into the piles that were thrown off onto the ground and filled boxes, baskets, sacks and even lard pails and handkerchiefs, but all women who came were helped until they had all they could carry.

"Comparatively a small showing was made in the quantity taken, however, when the engine backed down, coupled on and started the train southward. Wagons were quickly driven across the track and the crowd gathered begging, pleading, warning and threatening the engineer, and trying to get him to set the coal cars in another siding. He refused, and started slowly down the track, intending to pull out at a rapid gait as soon as the siding was cleared."

"Dump the cars!" shouted a man. Some say it was Turnell, but I could not definitely learn who struck off the patent dumping control of the first car. When the train began to move most of the crowd scattered, but a considerable number remained on the cars. These quickly freed the adjustable bottoms of ten of the cars, and the coal poured down upon the track and along the sides. The train stalled directly opposite the station. A quarter mile of track was littered deep with coal and the people gathered about it like flies along a streak of honey.

The engineer managed to get away then with about half his train, pulling it down the track to another siding. But in a few minutes another raid had started, and much coal was taken before the harrassed engineer again got under way and took his train further on still to Yakima City. The spirit of loot was rampant, and Yakima City swarmed out like a hive of bees. Here at last the railway people took charge of the cars, and sold coal to all who came.

Meanwhile another coal train had pulled to the yards shortly after the first had been stalled at the station. It, too, was raided with a whoop! and eleven more cars were dumped upon the track.

The news had spread all over town and the people "come a-running." Business men and laborers, rich and poor, young and old, labored with quite enthusiasm and thorough good nature. Some people were in a panic lest the hundreds of tons would be gone before they could get a share. One man was seen to remove his overalls, tie a cord about each lower extremity, then filling the improvised sack to the waistband, hurry home joyfully with the load.

Early in the raid a quick-witted railway employe turned in a fire alarm, and the Yakima department dashed out across the tracks. Scarce one of the busy looters looked up from his work, however, and the ruse was without effect. At last, after dark, the authorities took charge, and thence on coal was weighed and accounted for. That night saw cheer in every Yakima home and farmhouse round about.

Next day many more cars came in, and, ever since, Yakima is said to have enjoyed the distinction of having more coal per capita than any other town away from the mines in the northwest.

"If you can't get attention by talking soft," says Mr. Turnell, "talk hard or do something, and they'll take notice."

The New Pure Food and Drug Law.
We are pleased to announce that Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds and lung troubles is not affected by the National Pure Food and Drug law as it contains no opiates or other harmful drugs, and we recommend it as a safe remedy for children and adults. North Yakima drug store, A. D. Sloan, Prop.

EVOLUTION

Dr. Ganville Lowther.

About 50 years ago Charles Darwin, the world's greatest naturalist, and Herbert Spencer, the world's greatest philosopher, announced their belief in the theory of evolution as an explanation of the order of the universe. It startled christians and was opposed with a logic, learning, eloquence and wit perhaps unequaled by any discussions of the past. It was an age when the rack, the gibbet, the cross and any other form of physical punishment for opinion's sake had passed away, and the appeal was made to reason. After fifty years of the most careful scrutiny, the severest criticisms, the most eloquent and learned discussions, by the best scholars on both sides, it has won its way intc literature, college text books, lectures, sermons and the thought of the masses, so that but few who lay just claim to scholarship deny the truth of its claims and the effort now is to harmonize the facts of nature and the experiences of life with its teachings. The evolutionists themselves are not agreed as to their theories. It is true of them as Charles Darwin taught of the struggles of the various forms of life on the earth for existence, "The struggle is greatest among the individuals of the same kind; because they subsisting on the same food and living under the same conditions, come into more direct contact and therefore direct conflict, with each other for the same things." This is true of the various denominations of the Christian church. It has been observed in a majority of cases where there is in any city or country a sharp competition or rivalry between denominations of Christians, that those most alike were the greatest rivals. So it has been with the advocates of evolution. They have divided into three schools of thought viz: Atheistic, who eliminated God from the idea of the universe, Deistic, who believe in God, believe that He created all things and that evolution was His mode of operation but believe that after calling the primary substances into being, and placing them under certain laws, He left them to work out their destiny without interference of guidance; Theistic, who believe in God, believe that all material things are expressions of His life, energy and thought, that He is in them and clothes Himself with them and that their movements under what we call natural law are His modes of operation. It is this theory of evolution that we will in a series of articles discuss. We do not care to discuss the Atheistic nor the Deistic, but to set forth the arguments that are generally relied on for he support of evolution in general and then for Theistic evolution.

The arguments used for the support of evolution are from the various branches of science. They come from the generally accepted facts classified under the general heads of biology, geology, embryology, zoology, astronomy, physiology, anthropology, bibliology, history and sociology.

The principal laws in operation are (1) all life struggles for expression. (2) There is in all forms of life a struggle for existence. (3) In the struggle for existence there will be the survival of the fittest; in other words, the survival of the best adapted to its environments. (4) In the survival of the fitest, the survival of the unfit is impossible. This occurs because there is not room or food for all that comes into being and only that which is best adapted to the conditions of life can live (5) The above facts are responsible for what we call nature's law of selection and rejection. (6) In all the individuals of any species there is a tendency to variation. This variation is often in size as in case where one is better fed than another. It may be in color, as is sometimes seen the nature of the food is changed. It is seen in the thickness of the skin or the color of the hair as a result of climate. There are also changes of texture ,chemical changes in blood, sap and juices of the body on account of soil, water and the mental states of animals. These and other facts, it is argued, make evolution possible. The question then arises, is it probable? In the answer to this question may be found the evidences from nature as seen in the various fields of investigation, in the phenomena of the universe. The first that we shall present is from

BIOLOGY.

We can only give a summary, or brief of the arguments that have taken volumes to amplify; but as we read and understand them they are as follows: Biology teaches that the many forms of life have primarily one substance. This substance is called protein. It is composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. This when united with a large proportion of water forms the chief constituent of the substance known as protoplasm, which is the physical basis of all forms of life. It is not life, but it is the primary form in which all life is clothed. This life is constantly changing on account of a process of organization of material particles with which it clothes itself, and the disintegration of particles by which it tends to death. One is the building up process and the other the tearing down process, both of which are continually going on. Every particle of food builds fiber or tissue, and every movement tears them down. If the reconstructive process is more rapid than the destructive process, there is growth. If it is less, there is decline. In youth the reconstructive proces is greater; in age it is less. Therefore the tendency of all living matter is toward cycli-changes. All living matter proceeds from pre-existent living matter. A portion of the old being detached and the new taking on the form of the old, with certain modifications. These modifications are from numerous causes, some of which have already been named, viz, quantity and quality of food, climate, soil, water, mental states of animal life and many other conditions classified mainly under the laws of heredity and environment. It is therefore the belief of the biologist that the many forms of life had originally one form, viz protoplasm, and that the tendency has been, is now and ever will be toward higher and still higher forms.

In another article I will give the arguments from other branches of science, no one of which would be regarded of itself as sufficient proof; but when they are all taken together form an argument that is almost irresistable.

"Thus saith the Lord, Make this valley full of ditches .. .. Ye shall not see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water." II. Kings, iii., 16-17.

WHAT IRRIGATION DOES.
Reclaims arid wastes.
Produces perfect fruit.
Causes the desert to bloom.
Makes a prosperous country.
Lessens the dangers of floods.
Insures full crops every season.
Yields large returns to investors.
Makes the farmer independent of rainfall.
Multiplies the productive capacity of the soil.
Adds constantly to the security of investments.
Creates wealth from water, sunshine and soil.
Utilizes the virgin soil of the mountain regions.
Affords a sure foundation for the creation of wealth.
Makes farming profitable in waste places and forever forestalls the ghost of drouth.
Makes the production of the choicest fruits possible, and prolongs the harvest periods of various crops if so desired.
Improves land at each submergence, and consequently does not wear out the soil; produces support of dense population.
Improves the quality and increases fully one-eighth and oftentimes one-fourth the size of fruits, vegetables and grains.
Makes the farmer happy by knowing that he has always at hand the means of readily and cheaply supplying all the water needed by his soil and growing crops, just when and in such quantities as are needed.