

ACTIVITY IN THE COAST STATES.

Industrial Development That Indicates Steady Forward Progress in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and California.

Pacific Cable Assured.

The Pacific coast was agreeably startled last month by the announcement from Albany, N. Y., that a company had been incorporated there for laying a cable across the Pacific ocean.

The route will be from San Francisco to Honolulu, thence to the Midway Islands, to Guam and to the east coast of Luzon. The cable will be 6,912 miles long, completing the telegraphic system of the entire globe, and making a total of 164,586 miles, all of which, excepting 16,171 miles, is controlled by private individuals.

At the coming session of congress a bill will be introduced to push through the construction work of the cable.

The estimate of cost by Rear-Admiral Bradford, of the Naval Bureau of equipment, is \$10,000,000.

The special demands by the government on this cable will be reduced rates and absolute control over the line in time of war.

Washington Coal at Honolulu.

The purchase of the Sandwich Islands has opened up the coal trade in Honolulu. Large shipments are made there each week from Puget Sound ports. The trade is increasing and the present demand may be doubled the next twelve months. New interest is being infused into coal mining and many new locations are being made. Several hundred acres have recently been covered by coal land applications in Stevens county, Washington, and the Washington owners of fine deposits in British Columbia near the boundary line are getting in readiness for the extensive development of their large holdings.

California Fruits in Europe.

The latest American invasion of Europe is the carrying of fresh California fruits to London and Paris in the face of the competition of the Spanish and Italian fruit growers. A Valencia, Spain, paper says: "California oranges, peaches and pears reach Paris, after traversing six thousand miles, in a more appetizing condition than ours," and adds that her fruit growers can only compete with America by employing America's improved methods of cultivation.

Where They Do Things.

During 1900 several young men from Eastern states and some from the fatherland, settled upon land in Lincoln and Adams counties, Wash. Some had only a few cents left after paying the government filing fee, \$22, but by exchanging work with neighbors, and by working for others, managed to get their land all broke and sown to wheat last fall, and on these same claims the threshers are turning out thirty to forty-five bushels per acre.

University of Southern California.

The University of Southern California has been opened under favorable auspices. The \$100,000 endowment fund, to which Mrs. Anna Hough, a sister of the late Jay Gould, subscribed \$25,000, subject to the condition that the university raise the remainder by November 1, is now complete. Mrs. Hough has now announced that she will give \$40,000 toward a second \$100,000, subject to the same condition as the first.

Big Sawmill Starts.

The Simpson Lumber Company's new mill at South Bend, Wash., which has been for several months in course of construction, began operation Sept. 28. This is a first-class modern mill and one of the best on the Pacific coast, having a capacity of 125,000 feet per day.

A Juvenile Banker.

Tommy had been quiet for fully five minutes. He seemed to be engaged with some deep problem.

"Papa," he said.

"Well?"

"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you—that's the golden rule, isn't it, papa?"

"Yes, my son."

"And it's perfectly right to follow the golden rule, isn't it, papa?"

"Yes, indeed."

Tommy rose, went to the cupboard and returned with a knife and a large apple pie. The latter he placed before his astonished sire with great solemnity.

"Eat it, papa," he said.—San Francisco Bulletin.

Shrewd.

"I insist that my daughter shall play nothing but classical music," said Mr. Sirius Barker.

"For what reason?"

"None of the neighbors know a thing about it, and she can murder a piece all she wants to without their daring to say a word."—Washington Star.

A cabinetmaker is one of the circumstances that alter cases.

A woman may love satery and yet despise an awkward satterer.

Harvested While You Wait.

The department of agriculture at Washington has issued a report of the general agricultural conditions in the Pacific coast region. It says that although the tendency for the last twenty-five years has been toward a gradual reduction of the area of individual farms and ranches, they are still of a size much larger than the average farm of the East, or even of the Middle West. This is particularly true in California.

Transportation of the enormous quantity of Pacific coast wheat has been reduced to a science. A large saving is made by loading ships directly from the cars, trains being run from the wheat fields to tidewater at a very few hours' notice. In Washington and Oregon, however, the wheat is run through an elevator, where it is re-cleaned and mixed with other grades of wheat to bring it to the required standard grade, after which it is re-sacked and loaded on the vessels, or cars, for final shipment.

About 27,450,000 bushels of wheat are exported annually on the Pacific coast, with a total value of about \$20,000,000.

Useful, Beautiful and Valuable.

The chief attraction at the interstate fair held at Spokane last month was the magnificent display of polished marble and onyx from the quarries in Stevens county, Wash. There were five different districts represented. These exhibits speak volumes for the possibilities of Washington as a producer of the finest marble and onyx known. The extent of the deposits is very large, and sufficient in themselves to supply a considerable portion of the large demand for material of this kind.

Connects North and South Idaho.

The commissioners representing the state in the construction of the Little Salmon wagon road, in Idaho, have accepted it from the contractors. The legislature last winter appropriated \$12,000 for the construction of this road and this appropriation was supplemented by donations of \$3000 by the Oregon Short Line and an equal amount by the Pacific & Idaho Northern railroads. The total amount of \$18,000 was expended upon the 27 miles of road between Goff and Round valley.

The Way of the West.

Forty new houses are in course of construction in Pendleton, Or., a town of 5000 population. One hundred and twenty-five have been built within the last year, and these are all occupied, meaning an increase in population of 500. This is not a boom, but merely a natural growth that is general throughout the West.

Taps a Good Country.

Articles of incorporation of the Tacoma Southern Railway & Navigation Company were filed last week, with a capital stock of \$4,000,000. The new company announces as its object the construction of lines of railway from Tacoma to The Dalles, Oregon, on the Columbia river.

Harney Coming to the Front.

Harney county, Oregon, is steadily gaining in wealth and population. The cattle sales from that county will amount to \$1,000,000 this year, as against \$800,000 last year, and the agricultural products are about double what they were last season.

To Build a Big Refinery.

The Standard Oil Company will erect the third largest refinery in the United States at Point Richmond, Cal., near Frisco. Over three million dollars will be spent on the new plant.

Muscle Hath Strange Charms.

"It requires tact and diplomacy to collect little outstanding accounts these days, especially when dealing with city employes," said a Manayunk business man the other day, according to the Philadelphia Record. "It's no use making a bluff or pleading poverty when dealing with policemen. Their hearts are like adamant. You must go gently—kind of size them up, as it were. Strike them about pay day before their wives get at the wallet; for, of course, if their better halves get it first you are left, and the poor copper has hardly enough left to buy his tobacco until the next month."

"You see, I have an advantage because I am a sort of musician. When the officer gets his money he will return to the sitting room of the station, take an account of stock and confer with the other fellows about how to make the pile reach out until the next pay day."

"I enter the room with a cheery 'Good-morning, gentlemen,' inquire into their various healths, talk quietly of the weather, and then sit down at the organ and sing that beautiful song, 'Then You'll Remember Me.' By-and-by they pony up and I hurry off to the next station and play the same old tune."

CHICAGO POSTOFFICE ROBBED

\$75,000 IN STAMPS STOLEN.

The Plot Equals the Recent San Francisco Smelter Robbery—Absolutely No Clue to the Thieves—Robbery Took Many Days Work—Bored Through Half Inch Steel.

Chicago, Oct. 22.—A sensational robbery, which netted the perpetrators \$74,610 in stamps, was discovered here when the wholesale stamp department of the postoffice was opened for business. A rapid investigation developed the fact that the burglars had crawled under the flooring for about 300 feet, bored a hole in the bottom of the vault, secured the stamps and escaped, carrying their booty in a wagon. The work of forming an entrance to the vault had evidently been going forward with the greatest patience for many days. It is believed, however, that the intention of the thieves had been to enter the cashier's vault, in which there was \$35,000 in money, and stamps valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. The bottom of the vault is of steel half an inch thick. In this 97 holes were bored until a space 18 inches square—just enough to allow the entrance of a man's body—had been so weakened that it was possible to take out the whole plate with little difficulty. A dry goods box stood over the hole thus made and concealed the work of the robbers while it was in progress. When discovered today the finger marks of one of the burglars were still discernible on the dust of the box, which he had pushed to one side.

So carefully had the job been planned that men working in other parts of the building had not the slightest inkling of the daring robbery being worked almost under their noses.

The robbers drove up to the southeast corner of the postoffice in a wagon, the tracks of which could be seen plainly today. The building is a temporary affair, and the men had only to open a little door to admit themselves under the flooring. To reach the vault it was necessary to crawl about 300 feet over odds and ends of boards which littered the way. The route had been carefully studied, for a detective who went under without knowledge of locations became lost and was nearly overcome by the foul odors before assistance reached him.

Having secured their plunder the robbers loaded it into the wagon, drove across a vacant lot and turned into Washburn avenue in front of the Art building. Of the stamps taken \$4712 were in "postage due" stamps and \$2200 in special delivery stamps. So the convertible stamps amounted to \$67,928, but of these \$4728 were Pan-American stamps of 8 and 10 cent denominations.

Largest Stamp Robbery.

F. C. Spalding, chief clerk of the wholesale stamp department, discovered the robbery when he opened the vault Saturday. Mr. Spalding at once notified Post-office Inspector Stuart, who hurried from his home and at once began an investigation, assisted by his deputies and a squad of detectives from the city hall. After completing the search the inspector said: "It was the largest stamp robbery ever done in the history of the postal service in this country. To get to the vault the men entered through a trap door. A few feet in they encountered a brick wall, which they dug through rather than move around looking for a clearer route. The wall, like others under the building, is of flimsy construction and it could not have taken them long to pick a way through it. A hundred feet or so further on they ran against another wall, and this also they dug through. On the way they also encountered a number of pipes, and as the walls are but two feet and in some places three feet above the ground, they tunneled under the pipes. Their whole course is plainly marked in this way."

The wholesale stamp vault, like the cashier's vault and the money order vault, is supported by a brick wall. It formed a square and before the robbery was air-tight. In this the robbers broke two holes, possibly to secure more air, for the place undoubtedly was very foul, or to have an extra place of egress in case of discovery. For light they used dry batteries, one of which they left behind. This battery one of my men discovered. It and the wagon tracks are the only clues we have at present.

"The space under the vault is large enough to allow a man to stand upright, and their work must have been comparatively easy, with the drills and steel saws which they used. The stamps were arranged in 20 pound bundles and the weight of the load they carried off must have been 500 pounds. Evidently one man handed the packages down to others waiting below. As their progress must have been slow carrying even one bundle through all those tunnels, crawling on all fours, I judge they worked for hours getting their booty to the wagon."

"Evidently they felt perfectly secure, though somewhat disappointed at missing the cashier's vault, where there was \$35,000 in cash and a great quantity of stamps. I can not tell how many men worked at the job. Every effort will of course be made to recover the property and capture the men who took it." Postmaster Frederick E. Coyne is in Washington. He is responsible for the

loss until an act of congress frees him from it. For amounts up to \$2000 the postmaster general has authority to re-live postmasters.

Of the stamps stolen 1,776,000 were 1 cent and 1,662,900 2 cent stamps. They got 150 \$1, 307 \$2 and 105 \$5 stamps, but Inspector Stuart said they would have difficulty in disposing of the larger denominations.

REPORT ON TRADE.

R. G. Dunn & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade last week says:

Unfavorable signs were not evident in the business outlook. Manufacturing industries enjoy exceptional activity, and most jobbers and retailers find no occasion for complaint. Mild weather is the one influence that may be charged with retarding retail merchandise distribution, yet it is the general opinion that sales thus postponed will be made up later. The same influence is invaluable in facilitating the handling of crops, erecting buildings and other outdoor work. Although a fifth of the year is still to be heard from, including the usual interruption and possible disturbance of legislation, there is good evidence that the volume of legitimate business will largely exceed all previous records. Speculation is comparatively quiet, both in securities and options, on leading products, which emphasizes the activity in trade channels, as shown by bank exchanges for the week at New York, 33 per cent larger than last year and 8.4 above 1899, while at other leading cities the gains were 16.3 and 9.1 per cent respectively. Strength without inflation still characterizes the iron and steel situation. Despite two months of interruption by the strike, evidence accumulates that the year will surpass all records in production of finished material, and consequently in consumption of pig iron. Orders already booked for delivery far into 1902 promise that next year will bring higher records, and the steadiness of prices make the outlook especially favorable. Mills as a rule have practically closed contracts for all the orders that can be filed this year, and future developments can only affect conditions in 1902 as to finished steel. Heavy orders are recorded for rails with a free movement of structural material, while wire and wire nails go abroad in large quantities.

Tacoma—Bluestem, 55c; club, 54c. Portland—Walla Walla, 55¢55½c; valley, 56c; bluestem, 56¢56½c.

SPOKANE QUOTATIONS.

Vegetables—Potatoes, \$1 per cwt; onions, \$1.35 per cwt. Poultry and eggs—Chickens, old, 9¢ 10¢ per lb, live weight; spring chickens, \$3@4 dozen; duck, \$4 per dozen; geese, dressed, 12¢ per lb; turkeys, live, 10¢ 12¢; eggs, fresh, 37¢ per case. Live stock—Beef, live steers, 4½¢; dressed, 7¢; live cows, 3½¢; dressed, 7½¢; veal calves, dressed, 7@9¢; mutton, ewes, 3¢; wethers, 6½¢; hogs, live, \$4.75@5 per cwt; dressed, \$7 per cwt. Sheepskins—Sharings, 10¢ each; short wool pelts, 30¢50¢; medium wool, 50¢75¢; long wool, 75¢@\$1. Hides—Green hides and calf skins, 5@6¢ per lb; dry hides, butcher, 10¢ 12¢ per lb.

The Spokane mills pay the following prices for grain, delivered: Club wheat, 44½¢ bulk, 46¢ sacked; bluestem, 47¢ bulk, 49¢ sacked; red, 43¢ bulk, 44¢ sacked.

Humor in the Century.

The November Century—in many respects an unusually striking number—will begin the magazine's thirty-second year, which is to be a Year of American Humor. A group of humorous stories, poems, etc., including "Two Little Tales" by Mark Twain, "More Animals" by Oliver Herford, and prose and verse by Carolyn Wells, Paul Dunbar and other well known humorists, will be preceded by "A Retrospect of American Humor," by Prof. W. P. Trent, with more than thirty portraits of famous humorists of the past and present, from Benjamin Franklin to "Mr. Dooley."

John D. Rockefeller occasionally uses the long distance telephone when away from his New York office, but not for important business. For such purposes he never uses the mails. There is a private wire from the office to his mansion at Forest Hill, Ohio, and the Standard Oil millionaire, when at the latter point, transacts business just as though he were in New York. He never wires a message, but talks to a trusted and reliable operator.

Dr. W. D. Shelby, captain and assistant surgeon in the United States army, has given Hanover college, Indiana, a fund, from the proceeds of which a medal will be given each year for the student who ranks highest in scientific studies.

The czar, before quitting France, left a gift of 100,000 francs for the poor of Paris, 15,000 francs for Dunkirk, 15,000 francs for Rheims, and 15,000 francs for Compiègne, and also a sum of 5,000 francs for the families of sufferers in the recent torpedo explosion.

At the close of the fiscal year 1900 there were 74,688 postoffices in the United States, or one to every 1,000 inhabitants.



Illustrating the delicacy of scientific instruments it is interesting to note that the navy department has bought a large tract of land surrounding the naval observatory at Washington in order to protect from jar the delicate machinery which records the time of the country.

A celebrated English physician asserts that the increased height and weight of English and Americans in the last half century are chiefly due to the increased consumption of sugar. He cites, in confirmation of this opinion, the fine health of the date-eating Arabs and the sugar-cane-eating negroes.

Professor Thurston, of Cornell University, says that the twentieth century opens with the gas engine for the first time in its century of evolution seriously competing with the steam engine in important commercial work on a large scale. Summing up the results of recent tests, it appears that "the best work of the large gas engine gives a thermal efficiency substantially the same as that of the very best steam engine, while it employs a fuel which is considerably cheaper."

In order to compensate the effects of temperature, which tend to alter the rate of a chronometer, the balance is made of two kinds of metal. When steel and sheet brass are combined for this purpose, the compensation is complete only for two fixed temperatures, such, for instance, as 0 deg. and 60 deg. Between these temperatures there is an uncorrected error, called the secondary error of the chronometer. The correction of the secondary error has always been a subject of great interest to watchmakers. By combining various metals, the error has been nearly eliminated in the best instruments, and recently Charles Edward Guillaume presented to the Paris Academy of Sciences a note explaining a new method of entirely correcting the secondary error by the use of balances composed of a nickel-steel alloy devised by himself.

One of the reasons formerly urged against the existence of living creatures in the abysses of the ocean was the supposed absence of oxygen there. It was deemed impossible that any considerable quantity of oxygen could exist at great depths. But recent discoveries have shown that there is no lack of oxygen even at the greatest depths. The explanation is that the cold water of the polar regions, charged with oxygen from the atmosphere, creeps along the bottom toward the equator, from both poles, and thus carries a supply of oxygen over the whole vast floor of the oceans. The surface water moves toward the poles, and so a great system of circulation exists. "Were it not for this world circulation," says Prof. C. C. Nutting, "it is altogether probable that the ocean would in time become too foul to sustain animal life, at least in its higher manifestations, and the sea, the mother of life, would itself be dead."

CANNIBALS IN AMERICA.

Savage Tribes that Eat Their Own Kind Exist Along Amazon.

It may not be generally known that cannibalism was once prevalent over large areas of the American continent. Such was the case, however; in fact, the word cannibal is but another form of Caniba or Cariba, the proper name of the Carib Indians, the dreaded scourge of the Antilles three centuries ago, among whom the Spaniards, on first landing, found human limbs hung up to dry in the sun for food. Many of the tribes of South America were cannibals, and some of the unconquered savages in the dark forests of the upper Amazon still feast upon human flesh. The practice existed in Central America and Mexico, as readers of Prescott are well aware, but rather as a sacrifice to the god of war than from any depraved taste for such food. As a war ceremony it was found also among nearly all the tribes of the eastern United States and Canada.

The Miamis had a cannibal society, whose members were under obligation to eat any captives delivered to them for that purpose; and the Kiowas, with whom I lived for some time, had only a few years ago a secret brotherhood, each member of which was pledged to eat the heart of the first enemy killed by him in battle. The old war chief in whose family I stayed was one of this society.

All the tribes of the Texas coast and back country were reputed cannibals, and with good reason. One of these was the Attakapa, from whom the Louisiana parish got its name, which signifies "man-eaters." Another was the Karankawa tribe, on Matagorda bay, with whom the French captives from La Salle's expedition witnessed many a barbarous feast. In 1780 the priests of the old San Antonio mission drew up a catechism for the use of their Indian converts, and among the questions to be asked in confession the first one was, "Have you eaten human flesh?" But the worst cannibals of all were

the Tonkawas, who lived about San Antonio, just back from the coast. To all the other tribes, even to the present day, they are known simply as "the man-eaters." They were strong, athletic men, brave fighters, good hunters, and inveterate rovers. Unlike other tribes of that region, they planted nothing, having a tradition that their first ancestor was a wolf, and that they must always be like him, shifting about from place to place, and getting their living by hunting. They had a pantomime dance in which the performers, disguised as wolves, scratched a man out from the ground, where he had previously been concealed in the loose earth, gave him a bow and arrows, and then recited to him the tradition, ending with the injunction to be a wolf always. Other Indians would make no terms with them, and the Tonkawas were an outlawed tribe among all their red brethren, with every man's hand against them. They retaliated by acting as scouts and guides to the whites in their expeditions against the hostile tribes.

When the Texan missions were established, in the early part of the eighteenth century, and the good Franciscans began the heavy task of transforming wandering savages into industrious Christian subjects of the king, we find some bands of Tonkawas among the score of tribes gathered into San Antonio, San Jose and the old historic Alamo. It is probable that only a few were thus brought under restraint, for the love of the old free life was strong in their hearts, and long before the missions were abolished, in 1812, we find the Tonkawas again roving over half of Texas.—Harper's Magazine.

SMALLEST ESTATE ON RECORD.

Measures but Few Inches in Diameter Section of Bronx Borough.

It has remained for New York, the city of great estates, to produce what would seem beyond all question to be the smallest single piece of real estate on record. To call it parcel of land appears absurd, since this tiny bit of land on the southeast corner of 149th street and Third avenue has the triangular dimensions of only 12, 14 and 16 inches—not feet, but inches.

A great hubbub it has given rise to, too. The borough of the Bronx fairly pulsates with interest over the question, "What will become of it?" Compared with this the Chinese question becomes but a thread in the cloth of discussion with which the dwellers in the Bronx are concerned. And the Bronx may well talk about this matter.

This triangular-shaped property—12x14x16—is known as the Uhl estate. Not jestingly, not with sarcasm is the name to be used. As such it must appear in all seriousness to the unknowing ones who might scoff at this tiny bit of land. When, however, it is remembered that this location is directly at the corner of a busy thoroughfare, in one of the liveliest parts of the borough of the Bronx, this portion of land is not to be sneezed at.

Some weeks ago the executor of the Uhl estate placed its valuation at \$1,000. There were no takers at that figure, but offers in the hundreds have not been lacking. One of the biggest department stores in Manhattan wants to buy it—for advertising purposes. A prominent advertising firm has made an offer to lease the ground for a term of years. But no figure has yet been accepted. Negotiations are pending, however, which promise an early consummation.

One on the Moon.

The vagaries of the moon have been so often described in verse and prose that it seems a shame to make that poor, overworked "bright regent of the heavens" stand for an ordinary prosaic tale. But the Detroit Free Press thought it a pretty fair joke, even though it was at the expense of the long-suffering moon.

The party was in the hands of one of those rare old guides who make a living finding and losing people and steering hunters out of the way of game. They had got mixed up in the tall timber one night and were vainly trying to find their way out to the clearing. The guide was as much at sea as anybody.

"Where is the moon?" said one of the party. "Where does it rise in this locality?"

"Well, ye can't tell anythin' 'bout it," drayed the guide; "half the time it doesn't come up at all."—Detroit Free Press.

Something New in Heraldry.

A New Yorker with aristocratic pretensions wanted a set of harness marked with his crest, and accordingly sent the die thereof to the artist in leather. In due time the desired harness was sent home elegantly blazoned with the insignia of nobility, but the die was not sent along. Making inquiries, the gentleman learned that a number of other customers of the harness-maker had seen the crest, and, liking its looks, wanted some articles they were having made mounted with the same design.

What has become of the old-fashioned woman who always served pickled tongue when she had company for supper?