

Hood River Glacier.

HOOD RIVER, OR., JUNE 15, 1889.

A DITCH NEEDED.

The gradual slope of the Hood river valley to the Columbia renders it comparatively easy to bring the waters of the river over the highest portions of the valley, at a very moderate cost. While for ordinary crops irrigation is not needed, it would be of much benefit in raising small fruits, and of inestimable value in making possible the successful growing of alfalfa. It will be but a few years until this latter crop is one of the principal ones of this section and that time will begin with the construction of irrigating ditches. Mr. Charles A. Smith, has shown how cheaply and easily the water may be procured by making a private ditch of a mile and a half long, securing thereby a fine supply of water from Ditch creek. By combining forces the cost of bringing water the entire length of the valley would be but a small sum for each one, and would bring large returns on the investment. Hood river valley can and should produce a large amount of first class gilt edge butter, and as soon as water is brought over the high ground and the alfalfa gets a start, it will do so. A ditch could be taken out somewhere near Green point striking the top of the hill about Pole flat, and from thence to the head of Indian creek, the route is easy.

INDIAN CREEK WATER.

Nature has done so much for this section that a very small expense will make it perfect. Although we have the very best drinking water the supply at present is not sufficient for irrigating purposes. What we need is water enough to sprinkle the lawns and gardens, and it can be brought in so cheaply that it seems almost criminal to neglect bringing it. A small dam in Indian creek, and a mile of pipe would supply us with an abundance of water for irrigating purposes, and thus supplied Hood River can be made with little expense the prettiest little place on the coast. We do not believe there is a man woman or child living here who does not love the place, and we think everyone would be energetic in beautifying it. With the grass kept green under the magnificent oaks, and well kept flowers in the yards it would be a vision of loveliness to the eyes of all, a never ending delight to the weary traveler a perpetual joy to ourselves, the matter is being agitated now and we hope will soon take tangible shape.

NO CELEBRATION.

The citizens of The Dalles, or those of them who contributed to the fund for the Fourth of July, met Thursday night and decided in view of the disasters at Johnstown and Seattle not to hold any celebration. The money contributed will be paid back to the subscribers who want it and the balance will be used in aiding one or the other of the communities named. It strikes us that the result will show our neighbors that they have made a mistake, as the greater portion of the money will simply be kept at home and they will miss a splendid opportunity to celebrate in grand style. We believe, knowing The Dalles people, that they would have contributed liberally to a fund for the relief of Seattle, and that the money given for the celebration would not have interfered with the collection for that fund.

The lack of snow last winter is making itself felt just now, in the rapid spring of the grain. Although we have had an average fall of rain this spring the ground was so dry that it did not penetrate deep and the result is that the evaporation has left the earth as dry as a bone. From all sections of this and Sherman counties come reports of injury to the grain, and the statement that unless we have rain soon the crop will be almost an entire failure. The early fruits have yielded a good crop, and of the later varieties there will be a fair yield. However much we may suffer from the diminished grain yield, the present season will cause our farmers to try greater diversity in farming. It will stimulate the planting of fruit trees, and perhaps cause more interest to be taken in dairy matters.—*Wasco Sun.*

HOOD RIVER is well represented in the A. O. U. W., the Grand Master Workman, E. L. Smith, and Grand Recorder, Newton Clark, being residents of this place.

A COMMUNICATION signed "Scribe" is left out this week simply because the authors name is not attached to it. The communication contains nothing objectionable but it is a rule that we will not violate under any circumstances.

An intelligent compositor made yesterday's *Oregonian* announce in a big head line that the loss of life at Johnstown would fall short of \$4000.

Decoration Day.

The HOOD RIVER GLACIER on its first visit appeared to us as refreshing as a June shower. Long may it live to remind us each week of the doings of the day in this busy little town.

In its columns an account was given of the festival of the Ladies Relief Corps, but the work done by that body on Decoration day remains yet to be told. There was a gathering of between two and three hundred people, at Smith's school house where services becoming the occasion were held, consisting of an address by Hon. E. L. Smith, singing by the Sabbath schools, and recitations. All then repaired to the cemetery, the procession being arranged by Capt. Dukes and music being rendered by the band. The procession formed a hollow square in the middle of the cemetery enclosing two crosses five and six feet high. The post used the service prepared for that day after which the corps proceeded to hand in bouquets all nicely marked with the name of some fallen comrade, battle, company, regiment, etc., and among the many the "Unknown Dead on Southern Fields" were not forgotten. Three young ladies dressed in white received, and attended to the bouquets. One handed them to the post commander, who read all the card contained in a distinct voice, passed it on to the other ladies who arranged them upon the crosses. The grave of Mr. Isaac Howe, a veteran of the 9th Iowa cavalry was then remembered with bouquets, a wreath of flowers, and a pillow of flowers representing the American flag.

We then returned to the school house where the inner man was refreshed, after which a general social time was indulged in for about an hour when all left for their homes feeling that the day had been well and profitably spent. Sec. W. R. C.

Miscellaneous Items.

At Hawkinsville, Ga., a spread has just been finished in which 16,577 yards of thread were used.

The American currant is largely cultivated in France, where its bright red juice is used to color wines.

Owing to the failure of the rice crop in Corea the government has prohibited the exportation of other cereals.

A block of firwood was recently received at Portland, Ore., that was cut from a tree which was 150 feet high to the first limb.

A ball-room in Washington is said to be lighted by 1,500 gold candles. What dripping there must be in the course of one ball.

Numerous Pennsylvania and Ohio manufacturers have been forced back to the use of coal, as the natural gas is running low.

A Chinese paper reports that a monkey extinguished a fire by emptying the contents of a teapot on a curtain that was in flames.

An enterprising California farmer took out his traction engine and plowed and seeded seventy acres in twenty-four hours at his ranch.

The skeleton of a mastodon has been unearthed in California. It is thirty feet long, and has tusks between six and seven feet in length.

The disastrous floods of the past two years in Georgia are attributed to the wholesale destruction of forests at the headwaters of the rivers affected.

The Cuban soldiers and bandits vie with each other in deeds of atrocity. At Guantanamo, while looking for kidnapers, the authorities butchered nine persons.

The far-famed city of Damascus, so bound up with memories of antiquity, and so Oriental in all its characteristics, is to have street cars and be lighted with gas.

In the corner stone of the DeSoto county (Florida) Court House the arcadians propose to store away, with ceremonies, the names of the "chronic kickers" of the county.

A man at Dalton, Ga., is doing quite a business in walking-canes, which he cuts from the Chickamauga battlefield. He has one order from Illinois for fifty of these canes.

A Lewiston man has invented a device for stopping runaway horses. It blinds the animal by clapping something over his eyes. The mechanism operates from the driver's seat.

C. R. Herr, of Stamford, N. Y., is said to be the possessor of the gold watch which Major Andre, of revolutionary fame, offered as a ransom to his captors if they would let him go free.

They have succeeded in photographing the germs of the yellow fever, which is a great step forward. They are now trying to photograph a taecky sore throat, and all lovers of science will wish them success.

It cost a county in Nebraska \$2,893.25 to run the poor farm last year. As there were but two paupers, the daily cost per capita was slightly more than \$3—about the same as a first-class hotel would charge.

There is considerable truth in the observation of the Eastman (Ga.) *Journal* that "the idea of teaching every girl to thump a piano and every boy to be a bookkeeper will make potatoes \$4 a bushel in twenty years."

Elijah Martin, of Sand Plains, W. Va., is eighty-three years of age, but is still as spry as a man of sixty. He works every day at his trade of blacksmithing, and can shoe horses as rapidly as any smith in the county.

The thistle at the antipodes seems to attain a most vigorous growth. Its root penetrates to a depth of from twelve to twenty feet, and this root, even when cut into small pieces, retains vitality, each piece producing a new plant.

Over seventy million pairs of suspenders were made in the United States last year. That would give every man at least two pairs, and it looks queer to see some men going around with a piece of clothes line girted about them.

A recent English investigation shows that with men over twenty-five years of age the intemperate use of alcoholic beverages cuts off ten years from life. Also that occasional indulgence, if carried to excess, doubles diseases of the liver, quadruples diseases of the kidneys and greatly increases deaths from pneumonia, pleurisy and epilepsy.

An original sign adorns a brick building in Brunswick, Ga. The first floor of the building is used for a negro restaurant, the proprietor of which announced his attention of serving hot meals to hungry sons of Ham, by painting on one side of the sign these words: "Her Boys is Hot Meals," while on the other is: "Comin'ndse fo yo self." It is presumed that he wanted it to read: "Here, boys, is hot meals; come in and see for yourselves."

The remarkable result of a tidal wave in the Province of Bannam, Java, has been a great increase of tigers. The land laid waste soon relapsed into a jungle affording welcome cover to the tigers, which became so daring and numerous that whole villages have had to be abandoned. Last year tigers killed no less than sixty-one persons there. To remedy the evil the Government of Java has raised the reward for killing tigers from 100 to 200 guilders a head.

The Oviedo (Fla.) *Chronicle* says that a firm there are about to engage in a novel enterprise in connection with their vegetable garden. They are taking glass bottles and training cucumber vines, when they are ready to bloom, to grow cucumbers inside of the bottles, so that when the vegetable is full grown it will be much larger than the neck of the bottle. They will then take and pickle them, and will have the surprising thing of having pickled cucumbers in bottles with necks much smaller than the pickles.

The British Government has at last settled on a white, almost smokeless powder for use in firearms. The importance of this statement is evident in view of the fact that, until the powder had been decided upon, it was impossible to ascertain accurately the length of the cartridge, and, consequently, the proportions of the coming weapon. There is, therefore, no longer any obstacle to the manufacture of the new magazine rifles, the production of which will make rapid progress. The powder gives out a very small report—not much greater than that of an air gun.

A veteran African explorer says: "The greatest danger to health in tropical climates, or at any rate in tropical Africa, occurs from catching cold. Two other imprudences next to be guarded against are excesses of any kind in eating or drinking or exposing one's self too much to the direct rays of the sun. Errors in diet are promptly and piteously punished with sickness, and as Europeans are all the better in health for taking a good deal of exercise they are easily liable to get sick if they expose themselves to the sun's rays without the protection of an umbrella, which is frequently done by newcomers out of foolish bravado."

A fawn kept by a citizen of Eustis, Fla., tried to induce the old family cow to accept it as a mother, but was indignantly repulsed. The young deer then endeavored to make friends with the calf, but all overtures were refused. The other day the calf, out of patience, hooked his fawnship in a vigorous manner, but the deer had learned that its symmetrical heeis were made for other purposes than that of speed, and squaring himself for the fray, planted a vigorous kick upon the nose of his adversary, which owing to the appointed hoofs, brought the "elated" in most approved pugilistic style. The fawn is now the avowed champion of the barnyard.

Rifles for the French Army.

Nearly 1,000,000 Lebel rifles have been turned out in France, yet the manufacture of them continues since the government intends to have four rifles ready for each soldier when the great mobilization comes.

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