

THE PUGET SOUND MAIL.

VOL. 7. LA CONNER, WASHINGTON TERRITORY SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1880. NO. 43.

The Puget Sound Mail.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY
—AT—
LA CONNER, W. T.
—BY—
JAMES POVER, Proprietor
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O. JACOBS, W. R. ANDREWS,
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LaConner, W. T.

United for the transaction of litigation business in Washington county. Mr. Andrews will give prompt attention to legal business of any character.

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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS-AT-LAW,
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Will attend the terms of the District Court for Whatcom county.

G. M. HALLER, A. W. ENGLE,

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LaConner, W. T.

Money loaned; Real Estate bought and sold; Farms to Lease; Collections made; Conveyances, etc.

R. E. WHITNEY,

NOTARY PUBLIC,
Padilla, Whatcom county, W. T.
Post Office, LaConner.

THE BELLINGHAM BAY NURSERY

JOHN BENNETT, Proprietor.

The undersigned offers for sale a very choice collection of

FRUIT TREES

Consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Cherries and Beal's Early Fidalgo Peach. It is always ripe from the middle of August to the first of September. This tree is hard and very prolific.

My collections of hardy perennial Border Flowers is very choice. Flower Seeds, Roses, and other Ornamental Trees and Shrubbery.

John Bennett,
Whatcom, Whatcom Co., W. T.

Maryland House

LA CONNER, W. T.

No pains will be spared in keeping up the well established reputation of the House, as one of the quietest and best kept Hotels in the Territory.

No Liquors Sold.

Everything neat and clean about the premises. Special efforts will be made to keep the table supplied with the best the market can afford, and to see that the food is cooked and served second to no other house in the Territory. A Large Reading Room for the accommodation of Guests. Terms moderate.

John McGlim.

L. P. SMITH & SON, Watchmakers!

JEWELLERS AND ENGRAVERS,
SEATTLE, WASH. TER.

DEALERS IN WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELRY AND SILVERWARE OF THE BEST QUALITY.

All kinds of work in the line of repairing watches, clocks and jewelry done in a satisfactory manner and warranted. Orders, either for goods or work, from all parts of the Sound solicited. Give us a trial and satisfy yourself. STORE on Front street, opposite the Brewery.

State and Territorial.

Willamette Valley.

There are 19 post offices in Washington county.

The hotel at the Albany depot is awaiting a landlord.

The river at Albany is five feet, eight inches above low water mark.

Several cows have died in Washington county from eating wild parsnip.

Albany again looks across the Willamette river and wishes it was only bridged.

Dallas will show its appreciation of the arrival of the narrow gauge by a grand ball.

Country roads which two weeks ago were in good condition are again as bad as ever.

Willamette Lodge, A. O. U. W., of Albany, have 87 members, having initiated 40 during the past 30 days.

Mr. and Mrs. Polly, of Corvallis, celebrated the 51st anniversary of their marriage on Friday of last week.

The new truck for the Albany Hook & Ladder Company will be shipped on the steamship Colombia, sailing about April 10th.

Benton county's apportionment of the school fund was \$4,535 30; distributed amongst 2,387 pupils, it gives an average of \$1 90 to each.

George Wells, near Buena Vista, has lost a number of sheep lately, and sundry other individuals mourn the loss of "valuable" dogs.

An excursion to Portland over the West Side railroad, for the benefit of the Evangelical Church of Corvallis, will be given May 4th, 1880.

N. L. Butler, of Polk county, who was nominated as the greenback standard bearer, has declined, and James R. Sears of the same county, has been substituted.

Fines collected from offenders in Albany for the past three months amount to \$5. This is not because of the lack of criminals, but because some of the city officers are afraid and others darsent.

W. B. Carter after an absence of two months among the orange groves and vineyards of Southern California has returned to his home in Corvallis, somewhat benefited in health and certain that there is no place like Oregon.

The following vessels are now enrolled in this District at the office of the Collector of Customs: Iron 5, tonnage 7, 304.75; wooden, steam 31, tonnage 61, 486.11; wooden, barges 4, tonnage 8, 118.84; wooden, sail 1, tonnage 68.

The Albany Herald says: "Information reaches us that the condition of Fall wheat throughout the country is excellent. Most of the farmers have also their seeding done—an unprecedented occurrence at this season of the year."

A Lebanon correspondent says: "They (the farmers) have more grain in and around Lebanon than ever before, and it promises a good crop. Some will be done seeding in a week or so, and be ready to turn their whole force to grading railroads, etc."

A meeting of citizens of Monmouth and vicinity, held last week, appointed a committee to canvass for subscriptions to a \$2,000 subsidy to induce the Oregon Railway Company to run its proposed road through that place. The Company will allow the sum to be made up in labor, grain or coin.

The Pacific University has lately received some 65 volumes of Congressional reports from Oregon's representative at Washington. Also Mr. John R. Porter, the Washington county nurseryman, has given the institution a number of nice evergreens of different varieties which have been planted in the College Campus.

The Itemizer says: The survey for the narrow gauge from Smithfield to Dallas has been completed, and the work of grading will commence at once. Parties have been in town this week making arrangements to build the bridge across the LaCroce. Within sixty days the engine will run through the streets of Dallas.

Southern Oregon.

Diphtheria is prevailing with fatal results in Calapooia valley.

S. F. Flood, from lack of health, has severed his connection with the Roseburg Star. Chas. F. Mosher will continue in editorial charge.

An aged and decrepit individual whom the authorities of Jackson county pronounced insane, was sent to the asylum this week. The county poor house would have been the more proper place for him.

Roseburg Star: "By information received from the Cinnabar mines we learn that the retort is running and the process of reducing the rock is now in order. This has been a tedious and expensive operation to the owners of the mine and they now feel jubilant over their success."

TELEGRAPHIC.

EASTERN STATES.

Express Agent Implicated.

CHICAGO, March 30.—C. A. Allen, telegraph agent, who is in charge of the bulletin recently stolen from an express office at Sydney, N. Y., was treated here last evening charged complicity in the robbery. The arrest was made through a detective under the direction of Superintendent Law.

Excess Exports.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The exports exceeded the imports for the year ending Feb. 29th by \$212,293,993. The excess the preceding year was \$293,702,107.

Not a Finishing Report.

The regular monthly statement of the bureau of statistics shows that the balance of trade in favor of the United States that has been kept up so long is falling off from \$29,500,000 in 1879 to only \$4,450,000 in 1880. During the twelve months ending with February the falling off was over \$29,000,000, or about one-third.

Purchase of Locomotives.

MINNEAPOLIS, March 30.—The Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Company has just expended \$280,000 in the purchase of 10 locomotives and 250 freight cars.

Damage to Fruit Bars.

CAROLINE, Ill., March 30.—It is feared that great damage has been done the early peach and strawberry crops by the late sleet and snow storm. Peach trees have been in blossom more than a week.

An Ex-Treasurer Off on a Tour.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Wm. H. Kenible, ex-treasurer of Pennsylvania who failed to appear in Harrisburg on Monday to receive sentence for bribery, left his hotel this afternoon and stating that he was going home by the four o'clock train, entered a hack that was waiting down town. He had not returned to the hotel at a late hour to-night.

State of Government Bonds.

Five and a half millions of bonds were offered to the government to-day at from 103.24 to 105.70. It is reported that the Secretary of the Treasury accepts five millions.

Strike of Weavers.

CORONA, March 31.—The Harmony mills strike continues among weavers and spinners at a loss to the workmen of \$30,000 weekly. The striking weavers were stoned last night. Three hundred weavers and 130 looms are in operation. If the strikers do not return within a week there will be a lockout till the men present themselves for work.

Will Consult.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—It is understood that Gen. Sherman will leave for Chicago next Thursday to consult with Gen. Sheridan about making arrangements for the removal of the Utes from their present reservation in Colorado.

The Connecticut Delegation.

The chairman of the Republican State Committee to-day, said that seven of the delegates from Connecticut will be for Blaine, three for Washburne, and two for Edmunds. Sherman gets none.

The Public Debt.

The public debt statement will show a reduction of \$19,000,000 for the year. Internal revenue receipts, \$9,000,000; customs, \$19,000,000.

The Obelisk En Route.

NEW YORK, April 1.—The World has a special cable announcement of the embarkation of the obelisk for New York.

De Lesseps Goes Home.

De Lesseps sailed for Europe to-day.

Congratulations.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—The Senate confirmed the following nominations: Joseph C. A. Wigzant, of New Hampshire, U. S. Consul at one of the Chinese ports; James M. Smith, of Kentucky, of the Land Office; Colfax, W. T.; Wm. Metzger, Postmaster, Dayton, W. T.

Monthly Statement of Public Debt.

The debt statement shows a decrease of the public debt for March of \$18,710,397; cash in the Treasury, \$20,100,931; gold certificates, \$3,835,500; silver certificates, \$11,208,520; certificates of deposits outstanding, \$8,840,000; refunding certificates, \$1,850,450; legal tenders outstanding, \$340,081.00; fractional currency outstanding, \$15,925,297.

A Canadian Exodus.

MONTREAL, April 1.—The exodus to the Eastern States of French Canadians from the Province of Quebec is continuing. Within 48 hours, 600 have gone over the Vermont Central, chiefly to Massachusetts.

Cincinnati Pork Exhibit.

CINCINNATI, April 1.—The Cincinnati Price Current publishes to-morrow a complete report of pork packing, the west, from which it appears that the total number of hogs of this winter's packing is 6,950,000, an increase of 530,000. The average decrease in weight is four and one-fifth pounds.

An Increase in Wages.

NEW YORK, April 2.—Many branches of business to-day advanced wages 25 to 50 cents per day.

Longshoremen Strike.

Longshoremen have struck against non-Unionists.

Nebbraska Democrats for Tilden.

COLUMBUS, April 2.—The Democratic State convention has elected Dr. Geo. L. Miller, of Sterling, Morton, J. E. North, J. W. Pollock, R. S. Maloney and F. A. Harmon—all Union men—to the convention at Cincinnati. The platform is for hard money.

Purchase of Silver.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The treasury department to-day purchased 315,000 ounces of silver for the Philadelphia and San Francisco mints. Coinage at United States mints for March amounted to \$7,475,000, of which \$2,350,000 were silver dollars.

Opening of the Northern Straits.

CHICAGO, April 2.—The propellers Champlain and Granite State left for Fort Huron this morning, the first boats for Huron through the straits which are now practically open.

Colored Citizens State Officers.

A delegation of colored citizens from St. Louis called upon the President to-day, stating that the negro and German together comprise the bulk of the Republican vote of the State; that the negro vote amounts to 40,000 and controls two, if not three con-

A Skirmish With Indians.

SANTA FE, April 2.—An Apache band attacked the village of San Jose, 17 miles from the Rio Grande, but soldiers and Mexicans drove them off. One soldier of the 9th cavalry and one Mexican were killed.

grational districts; that if the government would elevate the colored man to the responsible official position in Missouri, it would renounce the colored people, who are now disaffected on account of having to carry the burdens of party without recognition.

Alaskan Government.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The cabinet to-day, after discussing Alaskan matters to some extent, decided to recommend legislation looking to the establishment of a government for the territory.

At Home.

CLEVELAND, April 3.—Secretary Sherman arrived here to-day and is the guest of Gov. Foster. A public reception occurred in the evening. No speeches were made.

A Strong Hancock Sentiment in Vermont.

VERMONT, April 3.—The Democratic State committee has decided to hold a convention for the selection of delegates to Cincinnati at Montpelier, April 22. A strong Hancock sentiment prevails.

The 14th Annual Meeting.

BELMONT, Vt., April 3.—It has been decided to hold the eleventh annual meeting of the Society of the Army of the Potomac in this city the third week in June. General Grant is expected to be present.

Notable Death.

BOSTON, April 3.—Gen. Pomeroy, a well known editor and traveler, died, aged 74.

An English Fair After Montana Cattle.

NEW YORK, April 3.—Charles Adolphus Murray, Earl of Dunmar, is stopping at the Brevoort House. He is on his way to Helena, Montana, to buy cattle for his ranch in the Yellowstone valley.

FOREIGN NEWS.

A Baron Forfeited.

COPENHAGEN, March 31.—A criminal court has sentenced Baron Gedalia, chief of the banking house of Gedalia & Co., diplomatic agent of the Bey of Tunis, consul general to Peking, and possessor of a dozen grand crosses and other decorations, to one month imprisonment, for repeatedly using concealed stamps on stocks and bills.

The English Election.

The Pall Mall Gazette admits that the government is defeated. The number of votes at the aggregate 345,958 liberal and 231,370 Tory.

Royal Visit Postponed.

LONDON, April 1.—An envoy of the King of Siam is expected on his second visit to England in May. It had been arranged for the King himself to come and invest Queen Victoria with the order of the "White Elephant," but his visit is postponed in consequence of the indisposition of the sovereign, who would at the King's absence have the reins of government.

Russian Affairs.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 1.—No special correspondent will be allowed to accompany the Turcoman expedition. Melikoff is hastening political change on grounds of illegality of the color of the paper ballot used. Nobody believed that it would amount to anything, but he thought the board should be prepared to meet the question.

The S. P. R. E. Marching On.

TUCSON, April 3.—The track of the S. P. R. E. is laid eighteen and a half miles east of Tucson.

Crop Prospects in Arizona.

Reports from different growing sections of the Territory say that the crop will be about one-third greater than ever before. The rainfall has been such as to insure large crops.

Better than Carbon Diamonds.

The people of the United States are believed to consume forty pounds each of sugar every year. At ten cents per pound, the annual cost of our sweetener is therefore about \$200,000,000. Of the two billion pounds which must have been required last year, no less than 1,741,650,000 pounds were exported last year, the product of our sugar belt along the Gulf of Mexico having been only about 250,000,000 pounds. How to save the \$175,000,000 which we pay every year for foreign sugar is a problem of more importance than the manufacture of diamonds from carbon by an inexpensive process of marvellous brevity. If we could make our own sugar, the United States would save what in a short time must amount to \$200,000,000.

And, fortunately, it is asserted that it is possible for us to produce as much sugar as we consume. The introduction of sorghum, from which so much was looked twenty years ago, is not to be a failure after all, if reports concerning discoveries as to the chemical process of converting sorghum juices into good sugar are well founded. The manufacture of sugar from beets is not as satisfactory as it had been expected to be, and the investigators have of late turned their attention in other directions. It is now affirmed that Prof. Collyer, chemist of the agricultural department at Washington, has made a discovery as to the production of sugar from the stalks of sorghum and of common corn, which deserves to rank with the invention of the cotton gin, in its effects upon the national wealth. Estimating the value of the annual crop of the United States at \$400,000,000, a statistician has arrived at the conclusion that nearly half that amount may be derived from the use of the stalks for the manufacture of sugar, and that without diminishing the product of grain. Better than an inexhaustible mine of gold is the discovery of a method by which the value of the leading agricultural product of the nation can be multiplied, and if the chemical process invented by Prof. Collyer can effect what is promised, his name is assured a place among the nation's famous ones.

Heavy Liabilities.

BRUSSEL, April 2.—At the Stock Exchange settlement there were six declarations of insolvency, with liabilities amounting to the aggregate a million marks.

A Royal Marriage.

VIENNA, April 2.—A marriage of the Crown Prince of Austria with Princess Stephanie of Belgium has been fixed for the end of February, 1881.

Was Enough to be Executed.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 2.—There is little doubt now that the assassin of the Russian consul, Comaroff, will be condemned to death in compliance with the demand of Russia. His physicians who examined him declare him sane.

Minister Fairchild in Madrid.

MADRID, April 2.—Gen. Lucius Fairchild, U. S. Minister, presented his credentials to King Alfonso yesterday. General Fairchild expressed the friendly feelings of America towards Spain, and the King replied in similar spirit.

Russia Invaded by the Chinese.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 2.—It is rumored that 1,500 Chinese troops have crossed the Eastern Russia frontier at Assuria, south of the Amoor, and that 30,000 are concentrated on the Western frontier.

PACIFIC COAST.

Serious Storm in the Sierras.

TRUCKEE, April 2.—A serious storm has been raging on the Sierras since 4 o'clock this morning. Snow plows are running constantly between Truckee and Summit, and from Summit to Emigrant Gap. At Miller's Mill, four miles west of Truckee, the snow is almost as high as the top of the snow plows. A snow plow train, which just arrived from Summit, came near sticking at one place on account of heavy snow drifts. All trains are running regularly; but if the storm continues until night, it will require superhuman exertions to keep the road from being blocked beyond Summit. Two thousand feet of snow sheds were crushed during the last severe storm, and this portion of the track lies exposed to the elements. Should a wreck occur, 100 men are held in readiness at this point to be sent forthwith to clear it away. A snow plow train has just arrived from the East, bringing very heavy all the way from Honolulu. There is more snow on the mountains now than at any previous time during the winter. Every train requires from one to three extra engines. Telegraph wires are badly demoralized, only three out of nine wires are working.

The San Francisco Election.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—At a meeting of the board of election commissioners to-day, after disposing of routine business, the mayor said that the board would meet next Monday to canvass the returns of the late election and that formal protests would then be entered against the canvass on grounds of illegality of the color of the paper ballot used. Nobody believed that it would amount to anything, but he thought the board should be prepared to meet the question.

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NEWS SUMMARY.

Pennsylvania paid last year \$1,800,000 interest on its State debt.—There were 6,147 marriages in Philadelphia last year.—The railroad mileage of the United States is more than half that of the whole world.—There are 13 general managers of railroads in this country whose salaries run from \$10,000 to \$18,000 a year.—Locomotive works all over the country are crowded with orders.—Longfellow has three times declined foreign missions offered him by the government.—Six vessels with 1,700 bales of wool are on the way to Boston from South American ports.—The Mississippi legislature appropriated \$10,000 for an asylum for the blind.—The Kelly convention will meet in Syracuse April 20th.—The western Union have regained their control over their telegraph lines over the Colorado Central railroad, extending from Denver to Cheyenne.—A new Japanese envoy will leave Tokio for St. Petersburg sometime this month.—The possibility of a war with China is freely discussed in St. Petersburg.—Mahomed Jan is disposed to treat with the British.—The Caszine is sinking rapidly.—The Pope's health is again declining.—The laws upon which the decrees against unauthorized religious associations in France are based are, it is claimed, obsolete and decrees will be contested.

A bill to prevent Chinese from taking fish in the rivers and bays of California has been discussed and defeated by the Legislature.—There is a movement in New York, Massachusetts and Missouri to make a second nomination at Chicago in the event of Grant's success.—John S. Burleigh declines that Grant is devoid of administrative merit.—The Treasurer of Bordentown, N. J., has hanged himself.—Polk county, Iowa, will send Blaine delegates to the State Convention.—Theodore Tilton, of San Francisco, makes serious charges against the integrity of Thomas T. Dawson, U. S. Consul at the Samoan Islands.—It cost the Spanish Government \$9,000,000 in March to put down the insurrection in Cuba.—English elections resulted in grave discouragement to Conservatives.

Dr. John Hall, of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, has had a rise in salary from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year.—The expenses of the great Southern railroad banquet held in Cincinnati were \$25,000.—Diamonds to the value of \$50,000 were lately stolen from the mail bags at Cape Town.—The campus of Cornell university is lighted with electricity at a monthly cost of \$18.—Gladiators' election speeches made an average of five columns daily.—The cargo of the relief ship Constellation was completed by a donation of 300 barrels of corn meal.—Long Branch hotel proprietors, in making their Summer estimates, count on the presence of General Grant.—The corner stone of the Channing Memorial Church will be laid April 7th.—The marble polishers of New York have returned to work at increased prices, viz. \$2.00 and \$2.50 per day.—Three Chinamen are doing service as firemen on the Union Pacific.—Brooklyn street cars are provided with snow.—The Eighth Avenue Railway Company's stables will accommodate 400 horses.—The New York college of physicians and surgeons graduated 117 students last month.—A home is to be established in Brooklyn to help repentant female ex-convicts.

A bill preventing all persons who are not electors from fishing in California waters is before the Legislature of that State; rough on boys, women, Chinamen and Indians.—California legislators propose to pass a bill compelling Chinese firms to keep 50 cents in English.—There is a salt mining excitement in Southern Arizona.—Bullion shipments for the week from Tombstone mine amount to \$27,000.—A man named Holloway, near Silver Lake, Indiana, is suspected of having fired his house and permitted his wife and child to perish in the flames.—A boiler explosion resulted in the severe burning of three men, and the demolition of a building near Buffalo.—A fratricide has been convicted and sentenced to eight years solitary confinement in the Pennsylvania State prison.—Two thousand looms are operating at Cohoes, in mill No. 3.—The St. Lawrence is to be tunneled at Montreal.—Ning man, a leader of Cuban insurgents have surrendered.—The Emperor William is confined to his room from a cold.—Secretary Sherman will visit Boston on or about the 10th of April.—A colliery explosion in Belgium resulted in the death of forty persons; a like number escaped from the pit with little injury.—Ten bridge builders were thrown into the Hudson by the breaking of a scaffold, and seriously injured.—Ning man was executed in the United States last Friday, two in Louisiana, three in Mississippi, two in Kentucky and one each in Vermont and the District of Columbia.—J. R. Pettis' regalia manufactory at New York, was burned; loss \$30,000.—Two or three thousand acres of New Jersey woodland were fired by a locomotive and burned over.—Ripley & Co.'s tobacco house at Cincinnati, containing 220,000 pounds of leaf tobacco burned.—A destructive fire, including Music Hall is recorded in Bradford, Pa.

LOCAL NEWS AND COMMENTS.

BRACHING.—On Tuesday evening of this week, Rev. Mr. Atwood, of Seattle, held forth the gospel to people of his denomination in La Conner.

DR. BOYD formally entered upon the duties of postmaster of La Conner on Saturday last. The office is now at the drugstore of Mr. Joseph Alexander, the deputy postmaster. Dr. Boyd and deputy are making every exertion to perform the duties of the office in an agreeable and satisfactory manner.

STILL MISSING.—After another week's search we are obliged to announce that no tidings can be found of Robert Kennedy, whose mysterious disappearance was recorded in our last issue. Our people have given up all hope of ever finding him alive, and so have applied to the Probate Court for letters of administration upon his estate.

THE La Conner school has been furnished with elegant combination desks and seats, made by our furniture manufacturers, Messrs. Dweilley & Stoessel. We are glad to be able to announce this improvement. With our excellent teacher, Mr. C. F. Cleaves, and the necessary appliances belonging to a first class school, La Conner is peculiarly fortunate.

"A TRY WEDDING" was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Courier, near this place, on last Tuesday evening, which was numerously attended by friends and neighbors of that estimable couple. Lawyer Eagle, on behalf of the visitors, addressed the "bride and groom" of the evening in happy and felicitous terms. The party after partaking of a sumptuous feast danced to their heart's content until a late hour of the night.

SAM WHITEHILL, an intelligent Indian of the Swinomish tribe, has favored this office with a curious shaped instrument of stone, which was used as a knife and chisel by the aborigines probably many hundred years ago, before cutlery was introduced by the white people on this coast. Had the "pale face" not invaded the domain of the "noble redman" the latter would yet be dependent upon this rude expedient as an implement of cutlery.

OUR fellow townsman, Mr. George Gaches, of the firm of J. & G. Gaches, returned from the Bay City on Monday evening. Mr. Gaches brought with him a large assortment of goods for the store of the firm at this place. He also brought a number of boxes of the popular game called 15. This game has been but lately introduced in Whatcom County, and no doubt will cause as much of a furore here as it has elsewhere.

SUGAR BEET.—This article of commerce will have a fair trial the coming season in Whatcom County. Whether or not the sugar beet can be successfully raised is occupying the attention of our farmers. Experiments are being made as to the adaptability of our soils to raising that vegetable. Should it prove successful, drying houses will probably be erected and shipments will be made to the great beet sugar factories of California, pending the time when Whatcom County will have its own factories.

THE TAX LIST.—The Sheriff's office at this place has been through the past week by taxpayers, who, as the law directs, are giving in their verified lists of real and personal property. It does not seem to be understood by a great portion of the people that it is not necessary to hand them in, in person. Merely filling in the items under their appropriate heads, upon the blanks supplied by the county Auditor, and verifying it before a justice of the peace or notary public, and addressing it to the county Assessor at his office, is all the law directs.

DIKING COMMENCED.—On Saturday last the people of Samish were delighted by seeing the initial work of enclosing the entire undiked portion of the Samish flats begun. Mr. Merrill, the contractor, after having been delayed in setting up his diking machinery, was upon that day able to commence his contract, to the great satisfaction of all concerned. Thus, from sixteen hundred to two thousand acres of the finest agricultural land in the Territory, will soon be ready for cultivation and taxation.

POTATOES.—The large crop and consequent low prices of this vegetable production, naturally suggest the feasibility of manufacturing this staple into starch. There are now in Whatcom and Island Counties thousands of bushels of potatoes that can be bought at fifteen cents per bushel. No where does the potato grow more prolific than hereabouts, and nowhere would those interested in the manufacture of starch find a more steady supply of the raw material than in the lower counties of the Sound, particularly Whatcom County.

MINING BUZZ.—The news from the Skagit mining region is not such as to encourage miners to venture into that country for a month or two to come. Every letter that comes down is redolent with avalanches, broken limbs and narrow escapes, generally. Mr. Cook, of the Marietta Hotel, informs us that he received a letter from Mr. H. C. Pierce, now at Goodell's Landing, in which he relates several adventures with snow slides upon the part of the Argonauts now in search of the "golden fleece" on Ruby creek. One man so narrowly escaped an avalanche that he was actually thrown into the river by the force of the wind caused by the slide which alone saved him from being crushed by the mighty mass of rocks, snow and debris which composed the avalanche. It was some two hours before he could be rescued by ropes, let down to him by his fellow adventurers. The snow is reported to be four feet deep and upwards on the trail to Ruby creek; and it will be fully six weeks before the work can be prosecuted as per contract in opening the Skagit trail.

Mr. W. R. Andrews, our well-known attorney, reports himself under date of April 1st at Goodell's Landing, in improved health and spirits. He will probably return to town the coming week, when we shall avail ourselves of his recital of the present status of the mines for the benefit of our readers. There are now three steamers engaged in carrying passengers by Mount Vernon on the Skagit. These steamers are named respectively, Josephine, Nellie and Chelalis, and upon the rising of the river will ascend higher each successive trip, until they are enabled to reach Goodell's Landing, the highest point of steamboat navigation on the river. That the most sanguine expectations of these hardy men who undergo such terrible dangers may be realized, is the wish of all interested in the future of the Territory. With the augmentation of population which a successful strike would bring, a general lightening of the burdens of taxation, would be felt in this county. There would be plenty of work, a better demand for farm products and our people generally would obtain a better idea of what is meant by the phrase, "filthy lucre."

Mr. Wm. SHERFIELD, of Johnson County, Missouri, is this week visiting relatives in La Conner. Mr. S. is accompanied by Mr. C. P. Dobsen, of the same place.

LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.—Although we have had the most severe or protracted winter the past season experienced in many years, the prospects for the coming harvest were never brighter. The cold, wet weather that succeeded the disappearance of the snow has given way to the balmy atmosphere of a genuine Puget Sound April. In a walk around the heights of La Conner, the steady-pulling teams of the plowmen are to be seen engaged in their labors as far as the eye can reach over the fields. Nor does the weather seem local in its beneficence. From all parts of the Sound the change in the weather for the better has been uniform. With good crops and a good demand for grain, which there surely will be the coming season, the improvements that were begun before the late depression will be recommenced by the farmers and a general consequent prosperity will ensue. We are all poor when the farmers are, and let us see what reasons can be adduced in support of the theory of better prices. By the great railroad work which is now being done across the mountains, a large amount of labor will be diverted from agricultural pursuits in that section. Teams instead of being engaged in the production of the grain will be engaged in consuming them, so that Eastern Washington will have but little of the cereals in which they compete with us for export. The same can be said for British Columbia, like circumstances being produced by the building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. From all we can gather Oregon has given up in despair the idea of competing with Western Washington in the production of oats. Prices in consequence of their insane competition have ruled exceedingly low the past year, and they fully realize the fact that there is no money in pitting their acres against lands that have produced as high as one hundred and twenty bushels of oats to the acre. "A burnt child dreads the fire," and it is doubtful whether they will again attempt to raise more than a home supply of that article. The California oats is hard and coarse. In favorable seasons the superiority of the Western Washington article is admitted on all sides, and with a season which bids fair to be most favorable, with less competition, and the production of a naturally superior article, it is fair presumption that the patient struggles in the past that have been made by our farmers will this year be rewarded.

Notice to Settlers. Filings and final proof of witnesses in pre-emption cases can be made at reduced rates before the undersigned. E. McTAGGART, Notary Public, Edison, W. T.

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A NEW INDUSTRY.—We see by extracts from the Olympia papers that the basket willow cane has been successfully raised on Puget Sound. No where is the opportunity better presented for the prosecution of this industry than on the diked lands of the Sound. A great quantity of land, including the dikes themselves, could be devoted to this industry, which otherwise is allowed to go to waste. The preparing of the willow for market can be done when the farmer has nothing else upon his hands to do, and after being cut can be so prepared under the shelter of a shed. The United States import some 5,000,000 dollars worth of this article yearly, and the conditions being here perfect, as actual experiment has proved, we have deemed it proper to give the matter attention. Basket willow is worth 10 cents pound in San Francisco, so reliable advices state. Such having been the ruling price for years, it necessarily follows that willow culture is a profitable business.

LEGAL NOTICES. Executrix Notice. In the matter of the Partnership Estate of Sullivan and Cornelius—J. A. Cornelius, deceased. Notice is hereby given that by the last will and testament of John A. Cornelius, deceased, which said last will and testament was duly admitted to probate by an order issued out of the Probate Court of Whatcom County, Territory of Washington, on the 23rd day of March, A. D. 1880.

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LEGAL NOTICES. Notice for Publication. LAND OFFICE AT OLYMPIA, W. T., March 13th, 1880. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before the Judge, or in his absence the Clerk of the District Court at La Conner, W. T., on Tuesday the 27th day of April, A. D. 1880.

LEGAL NOTICES. Notice for Publication. LAND OFFICE AT OLYMPIA, W. T., March 11th, 1880. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before the Judge, or in his absence the Clerk of the District Court at La Conner, W. T., on Friday the 30th day of April, A. D. 1880.

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LEGAL NOTICES. Notice for Publication. LAND OFFICE AT OLYMPIA, W. T., March 22, 1880. NOTICE is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before the Judge, or in his absence before the Clerk of the District Court, at his office in La Conner, W. T., on Tuesday the 4th day of May, A. D. 1880.

LEGAL NOTICES. Notice for Publication. LAND OFFICE AT OLYMPIA, W. T., March 15th, 1880. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and secure final entry thereof, and that said proof will be made before the Judge, or in his absence the Clerk of the District Court at La Conner, W. T., on Wednesday the 28th day of April, A. D. 1880.

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