PULSE OF WESTERN PROGRESS

An Adventurer Dircovers Fabulously Rich Mines on the Calipooia Mountains.

RICHEST CLAIM ON THE PACIFIC COAST

Utah's Coming Statehood—Wealth of the Mercur Gold District—Gold at Hahn's Peak—Chickens as Prospectors—Western Jottings.

George Douglass Browne, a young Englishman who claims relationship with some of the most aristocratic families in his native land, recently came to Portland from a prospecting tour in the Calipooia mountains, where he claims to have located one of the richest placer claims the west has ever heard of. To a reporter on the Portland Oregonian he told a strange tale of adventures which befell him while on his lonely quest for gold, and he backed his statements concerning his fortunate find by exhibiting two canvas sacks of coarse gold dust and a double handful of dirty looking nuggets, ranging in size from a pea to an English walnut, and curious in form and makeup.

"Last winter I spent in northern California, and early in the spring had worked my way well up into the Calipooia range. It little matters just what section of the country I was in, but I know pretty well myself. Traveling was pretty rough through a country without trails of any sort, over steep ridges and through rocky gulches, and particularly when the ground was slushy with the melting snow. I had found traces of gold in the rocks, picked up a few small nuggets in the bottoms and washed out a few pans of dust here and there where I saw good prospects, but had seen nothing that had come up to my expectations. Finally, after creeping over an exceptionally dangerous divide one day, I found my progress blocked by a deep, dark-looking ravine, with sides so steep and slippery that at first I hesitated to descend into it. I couldn't very well camp on the mountain side, so I determined to work my way down into the ravine, and take my chances on finding a good place to stop for the night. The descent I found to be more difficult than I had anticipated, for the banks, or rather walls of the ravine were almost perpendicular. It was pretty dark before I reached a point three-quarters of the way down, then I made a misstep and rolled the remainder of the distance, striking against a tree with such force that I remained unconscious for a time. When I came to it was dark as pitch, and I was so bruised and sore that I could scarcely move. I managed to pull myself together, however, and without stopping to investigate further camped on the spot.

SANDS HEAVY WITH GOLD.

"It was broad daylight when I awoke next morning, and lying there I could form some idea of the place I had fallen into. The sides of the gulch were very steep and rugged, and there were but few places where a safe descent could be made. I had stumbled upon one of those places. Lame and weary from my adventure of the previous night, I managed to build a fire and cook breakfast, after which I tramped away up stream. In some places the stream spread over the entire bottom, and I was compelled to wade. It was hard work, but when I chanced upon a big nugget I felt well repaid. My curiosity was also well excited, and I pushed ahead. Tramping through a narrow place for about a mile, I landed on a gravel bank, where I found traces of gold. To my horror I also found the disjointed bones of a human skeleton sticking out of the sand. I did not stop to wash out any of the sand, but hastily forged ahead. Half a mile up the stream I found the remains of the prospector's camp—two forked sticks stuck up in the ground, eighteen inches apart. That was all that was left. I surmised that the poor fellow had been overtaken by a sudden freshet and, unable to get out of the way, had been drowned.

"As I sat on the bank, pondering upon the fate of the lone prospector, I caught sight of a nugget, lying in the shallow water. I hastily gained possession of it and then commenced to examine the bottom and bank. Coarse grains of gold could be seen with the naked eye. I was not long in getting enough together for a test, and to my astonishment and delight I found that the sand was heavy with gold. I worked until dark feverishly and then lay down on the dead prospector's camping ground to dream of wealth. During the next week I scarcely had time to eat, so anxious was I to dig for yellow metal. Nuggets were thick enough to satisfy any one and I gathered what you have seen within a radius of twenty feet of the spot where I first struck my shovel. At the end of the week the fever had worn off. I had all the gold I could conveniently carry and my stock of food was getting low. One bright morning I packed up my things, and, covering up the excavations I had made, started down stream. I scrambled up the bank about a mile below where the skeleton lay and struck out for civilization. It was a rough trip and I would have been in a sorry plight had I not been able to bring down a couple of deer on the road. It is my expectation to form a company among my friends at home and work my claim on an extensive scale. The claim is, I believe, the richest on the Pacific coast."

DRY WATER GOLD CAMP.

Great excitement is abroad in Routt county over the discovery of free gold quartz leads three miles from this place, says a Sidney, Colo., special to the Denver News. The actual discovery of paying ore was made some three weeks ago by Colonel John Weiskopf of this place and today there is a full-fledged mining camp with prospectors flocking in from all directions. Float assays run from $5.25 to $10.60 in gold and from six-tenths to one ounce of silver. The gold is found in fine honeycombed quartz of the Cripple Creek variety and is pronounced by competent judges as most excellent gold-bearing rock. Mr. Thomas R. Miller, the resident representative of Dow, Shear & Co., at Hahn's Peak, has concluded a thorough inspection of the territory and stated that the district is of unquestionable stability. The new camp is known as Dry Water. It is ten miles above Steamboat Springs on the Bear river, at the foot of the North peak and the Bear river wagon road, and immediately in the rear of the ranch property of Walter Henry Brown. Small chunks of quartz mortered and washed show from fifteen to forty-five colors to the pan, all visible to the naked eye and in size up to a pin head. The formation is porphyry and quartz, with well defined veins of decomposed and honeycombed quartz, varying in different localities from two to six feet wide. A call has been issued by the Big Yampa company, consisting of Colonel Weiskopf, F. Sandhoffer, W. B. Moore and W. H. Brown, for a convention of miners June 2, when a new district will be organized and the necessary laws formulated.

A ROOSTER'S GOLDEN GIZZARD.

A gold discovery that was made at Santa Rosa has received no inconsiderable amount of comment, and has set the old miners to talking, says a special to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The cook in W. H. Grissim's grillroom, while dressing a young rooster for broiling, found several small flakes of gold in the gizzard among the loose gravel and dirt. The small particles were about twice the size of a pin head and were about twenty in number. His curiosity excited, Mr. Grissim immediately set to work to find out who the chicken came from. It was learned that the cook had purchased a number of fowls, this particular one among the number, from the grocery firm of Kopf & Donovan.

Messrs. Kopf and Donovan are quite certain that the chicken came from the ranch of John Pender, about three miles southwest of town, formerly the property of E. L. Davis. Mr. Pender's fowls are in the habit of scratching in the gravel and sand among the gulches and small streams at the foot of Taylor mountain, and it is probable that this chicken opened a pocket containing the gold. This theory is borne out by the fact that particles of black sand were also found in the gizzard.

It is probable that the streams and gulches in the neighborhood of Taylor mountain will now be thoroughly prospected and many are of the opinion that important discoveries may follow.

LUCK AT CRIPPLE CREEK.

There is no end to the chances of striking gold at any point in the Cripple Creek land district—away from town, close to town or in town, says the Miner.

Saturday a strike was made in the city limits that gives promise of being a bonanza for the fortunate owners.

About three weeks ago Messrs. Gibson, Sawyer, Hight and Shepherd took a two years' lease on a claim adjoining the reservoirs. They went down seventeen feet and on Saturday struck ore that is full of free gold. It can be seen plainly in patches all over the rock and will run into the hundreds of dollars to the ton.

An assay is not necessary to show that the rock is valuable and a mill run will be made to learn just how valuable it is.

The lucky men are, as a matter of course, well pleased with their good fortune, and while not expecting to be millionaires are quite well satisfied that a competency is in sight.

DEATH IN THE DESERT.

Two Cornish boys named William Hosking and William Rogers left Telluride last February for the mining regions adjacent to Phoenix, Ariz. On their way, and when about eighty-five miles from Phoenix, in the desert near Collins' well, both died of thirst, says a special to the Denver Times. With the remains of Rogers the following note was found addressed to his father in Churchtown, England:

"I remain your loving son, William Rogers—dying for want of water. Do not grieve for me, mother—I am dying. Send to Telluride, Colo., for my trunk. My pardner will go to Harqua Hala. His name is Bill Hosking. The key to my trunk is in my pocket."

Four miles further on his partner, going in search of help, was found. He had also died for want of water. The Cornish boys in Telluride speak highly of Rogers, and mourn for his sudden and unexpected death.

AN INDIAN SKIN GAME.

"These stories of Indian troubles in the southwest remind me of an experience that I had down in New Mexico," said Henry Davidson of Albuquerque to the St. Louis Republic. "I was new to the region then, and, although I had heard all sorts of strange tales about the trickiness of the Indian, I did not know that he was as shrewd as I afterward found him to be. I wanted a pony for some reason and I communicated my desires to a friend of a crowd of the greasy citizens of the outskirts. The next day I was besieged with offers. I looked all over the lot and picked three or four to make my final selection from. After several hours I settled upon an animal that I thought to be in the pink of condition and form. I took him for a good round sum and a trade thrown into the bargain. I rode home on the animal. As I got into my quarters I noticed that the horse appeared to be uneasy, as if suffering from injury. As I live, I found that a patch of skin, several inches square, had come off his back. I looked into it and discovered that the horse was raw there, and that he had been patched up with rabbit or some other skin for the time being. Those Indians stood by each other, too, for I could never locate the scoundrel who had swindled me. I have since concluded that they were all wrong and that had I bought the outfit I would have found the oddest assortment of patched horses that it was ever the fortune of a white man to look upon."

NEBRASKA.

Gretna expects to have a creamery in full blast before June is out.

Fred Wright has retired from the editorship of the Madison Star.

Grand Army men of Holt county will hold a reunion at Atkinson July 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Jefferson County's Old Settlers association has decided to hold the reunion this year at Endicott on August 30 and 31 and September 1 and 2.

A commercial college will open at Falls City on June 11. The old school building has been thoroughly renovated and fitted with new furniture.

The meeting of the Polk County Sunday School Officers association will be held at Osceola on June 30, and an extensive program has been prepared.

A. P. Hazard's store at Belvidere was broken into by thieves, who secured $18.75 in money, a gold watch and a revolver by blowing open the safe.

Arlington is the latest Nebraska town to discover a shortage in the school treasurer's accounts. But it is not the present treasurer that is implicated. Over $400 is missing.

Kearney is agitating for a rousing celebration of the Fourth. The state meet of the League of American Wheelmen is to be held in that city on that day, and this is expected to bring in a large crowd of outsiders.

Mrs. Meserve, living near Cortland, was badly bitten on the hand by a rattlesnake which was concealed in a basket of corn cobs which she was carrying into the house for fuel, and after attending to the injured hand the mother of the unfortunate woman picked up the same basket and was also bitten, apparently by the same rattlesnake.

In the western counties of the state it is now quite a familiar thing to see the prairie schooner wending its way eastward. The Indianola Courier calls attention to one that went through that town with the inscriptions: "In God We Trusted; in Kansas We Busted," "Washington or Bust," and ascribes this reversal of the course of "the star of empire" to the drouth.

At Ord the suit of Sorenson against Masin et al, for $10,000 damages under the Slocumb law, ended in a verdict for $300. Two witnesses were fined $20 for contempt in disobeying the subpoena and John W. Rice, a prominent citizen, was placed under $500 bonds to appear June 7 to answer to the charge of having paid them to remain away. There is great excitement over the affair.

THE DAKOTAS.

A coal famine is imminent at Yankton. The coal on the tracks will not last another week.

The first trial for violating the school law of 1890 took place in justice court at Brookings, S. D. A farmer named A. J. Bortnem was arrested for cultivating part of a school section, pleaded guilty and was fined $50 and costs.

A large body of ore has recently been opened up in the Emma mine, which is situated in the Bare Butte district and in the town of Galena. The principal opening on the property is a tunnel some 400 feet in length. During the progress of the work several seams of ore were found.

A number of men and boys are employed in various places at Gold Run in the Hills taking out gold from the crevices among the rocks along the hillsides that have been overlooked in placer mining during the early days. As far as heard from all who are thus engaged are making it profitable.

A portion of the Mellville farm adjoining Huron on the southwest has been secured for making practical tests of irrigation by water from artesian wells during the present summer. The work will be under direction of the State Agricultural college and all expenses will be paid by the government.

City Treasurer Wyant of Kimball was somewhat surprised the other day to receive notice that $3,000 of the city bonds were due. The bonds are owned at Battle Creek, Mich., and the official records show, so far as can be ascertained, that the bonds are not due for five years yet, consequently no funds had been provided for their redemption. During the early days of Kimball's incorporation the records were badly kept in the matter of recording the issuance of bonds, hence the present situation.

The charge of plagiarism brought against Richard F. Locke, the orator from the Sioux Falls university, who recently won the state contest, by the faculty of Yankton college, has created considerable hard feeling between Sioux Falls and Yankton, but a scrap is now on. Prof. Free of Yankton, who came up here and made the charges, has given vent to his displeasure through columns of the Yankton Press and Dakotan. He roasts Prof. Walsh of the Sioux Falls university in a way almost libelous. The matter will be submitted to the state oratorical association for settlement. The local professors claim that the charge cannot be sustained and that the chalcedony slab which Yankton has not yet seen fit to turn over to Sioux Falls will probably be ordered sent here by the association.

COLORADO.

Potato planting is all the go about Pagosa Springs.

Renewed efforts are being made to secure a stamp mill for La Plata district.

The Golden Treasure, Gilpin county, owned by Denver men, reports a good strike.

The cheese factory at Ni Wot has started up with a capacity of 10,000 pounds of milk daily.

Near Lake City William Laughton has uncovered a large body of tellurium ore. It is said to be the same as the Golden Fleece vein. It is on the opposite side of the creek from the Golden Fleece, in a direct line and has the same dip and the same character of ore.

The new smelter at Silverton received its first consignment of ore last week, ten cars from Red Mountain.

A pay streak has been opened in the 200-foot level of the Moose mine, Cripple Creek district, said to yield $1,400 per ton.

The Florence Oil company is rigging up to drill on a school section on Newland creek—land which it recently leased from the state.

Sixty carloads of potatoes have been shipped during the past week from various railroad points in Saguache county, and there is more to follow.

The frost of about a week ago is found to have killed about one-half of the fruit buds about Florence and on Beaver creek. There is still enough left to make an immense crop.

An old Winchester rifle, picked up on the battlefield where Custer made his last fight, recently arrived at Silverton by express. Although the gun shows evidence of rough usage it is still serviceable.

The Chase company, which has been drilling south of Erie, has reached a depth of 245 feet. It is reported that a vein of over six feet of coal at a depth of 223 feet was passed through, but the operators will neither confirm or deny it. It has been the company's intention to open a shaft if the vein could be found.

A large number of prospectors are bound for the Elk Creek mines, and most encouraging reports come in from that district daily. Mr. Christensen not very long ago had a mill run of ore from his mine which runs about $25 in gold besides a good percentage in copper. A big boom for the Elk creek camp is looked for.

The Cotopaxi Mining and Milling company has shipped one car of ore from the company's zinc mines at that place to the International Industrial fair at Antwerp, Belgium, to be treated on the ground by the Belgian process. Should the terms be satisfactory arrangements will be made for the erection of a smelter using the Belgian method at Cotopaxi.

A valuable tract of land three miles south of Las Animas on the Purgatoire river, embracing some 1,500 acres, is being filed upon by parties from Bent county. The land is part of an old Spanish grant, and it has been closed to settlers since 1888. Congressman Bell recently interested himself in the matter, and the result is that this desirable land is now open for filing.

WYOMING.

Over 1,500,000 pounds of wool will be shipped from Casper this year.

The new Laramie, Wyo., creamery will start up June 15, making 125 pounds of butter daily.

The Douglas creek placers are attracting a great deal of attention at Laramie and experts are now there making an examination.

The miners at Rock Springs are now turning out 250 cars of coal daily. The mines at Hanna and Carbon are turning out 100 cars in the same time. The mines are being worked on three-quarters time.

The first shipment of 15,000 head of cattle purchased by Messrs. Tisdale and Saunders will be made soon. About 8,000 head will be shipped over the Union Pacific for the Dakotas, it taking 750 cars for this number.

Experts who have been over the Atlantic gold fields of late pronounce them as fine as any they have ever seen. One of them has stated that if such a field should be found in Colorado there would be 5,000 people there inside of a month.

The "Life and Adventures of Frank Grouard" will shortly be published in book form by Joe De Barthe, editor of the Sheridan Enterprise. It will consist of more than 600 pages, profusely illustrated, and will prove an interesting narrative.

The announcement is made that capitalists of the two flourishing towns of Rock Springs and Lander will construct an irrigating canal in the immediate vicinity of the latter town. The canal will issue from Popoagie river, will cover 12,000 acres and will be completed during the present year.

Two buffalo bulls were seen on the plains west of Rawlins a few days ago by some boys who were armed with 22-caliber rifles. They took a shot at the buffalo and hit one of them. The shot merely served to sting the old fellow and he made a charge after the hunters, who fled precipitately. They reached home nearly dead from exhaustion. The animals are supposed to be part of a herd known to have been in the desert a number of years.

OREGON.

A stage line between Cove and La Grande is advertised to be "quicker than by rail."

The last clean-up of the Black Butte quartz mill at the Fox mines was a profitable one.

Josephine and Jackson counties will combine on a district fair at Central Point September 4-8.

It cost Joseph McCabe $30 in the La Grande police court for striking an inoffensive Chinaman.

Considerable dust of the right kind is coming into Baker City from the placer mines in the vicinity.

The Albany free kindergarten has just closed its first winter term, an experiment of the most gratifying success. The force of teachers has been increased to five.

The Hood River Fruit Growers' union of Hood River is putting up a warehouse opposite the depot there. It expects to handle strawberries in car load lots this season.

W. H. Doughtry and Bob Adams, cattlemen, are now driving out of the John Day country 3,000 steers that they recently sold for shipment to Montana ranges.

A company has been formed at Portland to butcher horses, selling the hides, hair, mane and tail, compressing the meat for chicken food, and converting the residue into fertilizer.

Thomas Payne of Albany thinks he has found a valuable sandstone quarry on his place at Albany. Samples of the stone have been examined in Portland and pronounced first-class.

A Coos bay Indian named John Barney, whose Indian name was Tsoos, died on the Siuslaw lately. He was supposed to be 110 years old, and had been blind and helpless for a long time.

Neighborhood rivalry runs so high in one part of Wasco county that they steal bridges and move them to other roads. An organized watch has to be maintained to prevent more depredations of the same kind.

The prospects for a heavy crop of grain in Sherman county were never more flattering than they are now. There is an abundance of moisture in the ground, and the grain is already fifteen inches high in the stalk.

The big mills at Baker City are turning out from 5,000 to 75,000 feet of lumber and ties daily, while the box factory is manufacturing among other things bed slats by the car load. Thirty-five cars are unloaded daily from the forests of Sumpter valley. At the mills alone upwards of 100 men are employed, while some 150 more are in the logging camps.

A recently discovered quartz location in Sparta district, and christened the Mabel, upon which only a small amount of development work has been done, was bonded for a consideration of $2,500, the amount paid down being $500. The owners of the property are Baker City men, and the bond is given to a party of miners from British Columbia. Supplies and tools have been taken out for development work.

WASHINGTON.

Yakima county will ship 500,000 pounds of wool from Prosser this year.

Pretty good cayuse ponies change hands at Ellenburgh at an average price of $8.

The Great Northern is preparing to put a line of steamers on Puget Sound to compete with the Northern Pacific.

The mill at Geneva has cut 50,000 staves for the New Whatcom waterworks, this being only half the contract.

The Spokane river is nearly a foot above the highest point ever reached in its history and a number of houses are under water.

It is reported that the Canadian Pacific will again utilize steamer lines on the Sound in the near future. The Sehome and North Pacific will, it is said, cover the Seattle-Port Townsend, Whatcom route. This will give Port Townsend another steamer line.

The sale of a big tract of timber land in Chehalis county has recently been consummated, involving a large sum of money in the transfer. The tract consists of about 4,200 acres in the Humptulips country. It was sold by D. A. Blodgett to Frederick Nehf and John W. Prestel of Michigan. The price paid, according to the deed on file in the auditor's office, was $30,000 and other valuable considerations. The same property was sold about two years ago for $20,000.

The railroad iron that was recovered from the wreck of the Abercorn is being shipped from Cosmopolis to Portland, to be used by the Terminal company.

Prof. James Gammage of Hoquaim has a genuine George Gemunder violin, which cost a small fortune. It was built from a Stradivarus pattern and there are only three more of the same make in existence that are for sale, and they are held at startling figures.

A tree was cut last week in Williamson's camp, near Shelton, which measured 11 feet 4 inches in diameter at the butt—34 feet in circumference. It was clear timber to the first limb, 70 feet from the ground. It is estimated that fully 30,000 feet of merchantable lumber may be cut from this one tree.

The Spokane land office is doing a rushing business. Six townships in Stevens county and one in Spokane county were put on file; also several entries. These are on selected lands, in dispute not long ago, and ninety days more remain in which actual settlers can file their claims, while the state school land agent has two months in which to choose for the people. After that any one can file.

The Farmers Alliance and Industrial union is preparing to build a flouring mill at some point in the Palouse country, having a daily capacity of 150 barrels. The location is not yet decided upon, but it will be either Garfield, Pullman or Oakesdale. They have a proposition from a Minneapolis firm to put in the machinery, the alliance to furnish the building, for $12,000 in three equal annual payments. It is hoped to procure a bonus from one of the three towns mentioned to assist in making the first payment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Late frosts have killed the fruit buds about Virginia City, Nev.

The California Wool Growers and Dealers association asks for protection for wool.

Since May 1 150,000 pounds of wool have been sent out by rail from Eddy, N. M.

The bi-weekly Union Pacific wool trains are carrying nearly all of the Utah clip.

Large consignments of wool are being received at Caldwell, Idaho, for consignment east.

Cherries are ripe in the Rio Grande valley about Socorro and peaches are as big as walnuts.

Andrew J. Davis has been given possession by the courts of the $1,000,000 left by Millionaire Davis of Butte, Mont.

Holt and Murphy of Arizona are shipping 2,100 head of 2 and 3-year-old steers from Wilcox to the Montana ranges.

The Bloom Cattle company is preparing to ship seventy-five cars of cattle from Roswell, N. M., to its Montana ranges.

The new converter plant of the Anaconda company in Montana has a working capacity of 10,000,000 pounds of pure copper per month.

At Fort Benton the Missouri is higher than ever before known at this time of the year and sunshine seems a thing of the past.

Twelve cars of cattle have gone from Holbrook, Ariz., to the Wattres Cattle company. Fully 400 cars will go out this season, leaving at the rate of two trains daily.

Mexican papers printed the story that Thomas Lowthian, one of the founders of the Cochiti district, has refused $400,000 for the Lone Star mine, which has, it is claimed, 500,000 tons of smelting ore in sight.

The celebrated peach orchard of Judge G. W. Wood of Mesilla, N. M., was sold to the Woodland Orchard company for $50,000, or at the rate of $750 per acre, the average age of the trees being only 4 years.

The Eddy, N. M., Argus says the management of the Pecos Irrigation and Improvement company is going to undertake to dispose of the alfalfa crop this year in eastern and European markets, to get the largest possible profit for producers.

Prospectors inform the Hailey, Idaho, Times that the hills and gulches are just alive with young grouse and sage hens, and that the birds were never as plentiful as this spring. The game and fish law is therefore proving of great benefit as a conservator of the feathered and finny species.

The Pecos Valley railway has cars of steel rails on every siding between Fort Worth and Pecos, on the Texas Pacific, no less than fifty cars being at Rock Springs. A new siding is being put in at Pecos and cars sent there as fast as they can be handled and hauled to Eddy. No less than 300 cars of rails and 600 cars of ties will be used between Eddy and Roswell, and many loads of bridge timbers.

John R. Blocker and Felix Shaw, two of the most prominent stockmen in southwest Texas, were arrested. Shaw is charged with smuggling 2,000 head of cattle from Mexico, and Blocker is charged with receiving smuggled cattle.

The movement of stock has commenced in earnest on the Santa Fe road. P. J. Towner, inspector for the northern district, reports that the shipments from New Mexico ranges, since April 1, have been something over 20,000 head.

San Diego is to have a coal yard on a large scale soon. The Santa Fe company has decided to ship the product of its Colorado mines to the southern city for distribution in the west. Heretofore this coal has been shipped east.

Mr. D. W. Ross, engineer in charge of the big Payette canal, says the farmers have a fine prospect for crops this year in the great Payette valley of Idaho, especially in hops. The acreage planted to hops this year is large, and the vines are healthy and strong and will yield a large crop. This year proves beyond a doubt that hops are a success in Idaho.

The Bailey mill at Allerton, in the Cochiti district, to be constructed by Denver parties, will be operated by electricity. I. W. Bailey of Denver has located 160 acres of public land, on the Rio Grande, one mile above the north line of the Cochiti grant. He will construct a dam there to generate electricity by water power, conveying the fluid thence to Allerton.

DEEP SEA SOUNDINGS.

The Method by Which a Depth of Five Miles is Reached.

A ship regularly engaged in deep-sea sounding, says the Popular Monthly, has the sounding machine mounted at the after-end, and when to about to sound is brought to a standstill, with the stern to the sea. The stray line, with the sounding rod and sinker attached, is over the guide pulley and carefully lowered to the water's edge, the register is set to zero, and the deep-sea thermometer is clamped to the sounding line; a seaman is stationed at the friction line, which controls the velocity with which the wire is unreeled, another at the brake, and a third on the grating outside to handle the sinker and instruments, and to guide the wire as it passes overboard; a machinist is at the hoisting engine, and the recorder takes a position for reading the register. When the sinker is let go the vessel is maneuvered so as to keep the wire vertical, and the friction line is adjusted so as to allow it to descend from seventy to 100 fathoms per minute.

The instant the sinker strikes the bottom, which is unmistakably indicated by the sudden release of the wire from strain, the reel is stopped by the friction line and brake; the recorder notes the number of turns of the reel. In an hour this messenger of man's ingenuity makes its excursion through five miles of watery waste to the abyssmal regions of perfect repose, and brings to the light of day the soil with which the rain of shells of minute infusorial organism from the upper waters has been for ages mantling the ocean's floor. Here and there a giant peak rising from these sunless depths lifts his head to see the sky, and the dredge and trawl tell us that along his rugged sides and on the hills and plains below and even in the inky blackness and the freezing cold of the deepest valleys there is life.

STORY OF A CHERRY STONE.

Paid Its Painter's Funeral Expenses and Furnished Him a Coffin.

Fifty years ago Almeron Higby of Watson, N. Y., then 9 years old, planted in his father's door yard the stone of a cherry that he had eaten. A tree grew from the stone, and from the time the tree began to bear fruit it was known as "the boy's tree." He sold the cherries, and the tree bore from year to year and he always put away the money that he received for them, even after he grew to manhood and was married and had children of his own.

Last summer, his health being poor and the cherry tree beginning to show signs of decay, Higby cut the tree down. He had the trunk sawed into boards, from which he made a coffin for himself. A short time ago he became seriously ill. He sent for an undertaker and had the coffin trimmed. He died and was buried a few days ago, and all of his funeral expenses were paid from the money that he had received from the sale of the cherries borne by the tree from which his coffin was made.

FIRE. SMOKE. WATER.

The fire never touched us—It was in the adjoining building, and while the loss ran up into the thousands of dollsrs, it was very quickly adjusted, and the entire stock is now offered at Fire Prices by the Insurance Companies. Smoke will blow off, so that goods damaged by smoke are as good as ever. We have lots of them. Water will dry off, and if the goods are all right, the color will remain in. It's a good test of value, and you know what you are buying.

CLOTHING FOR MOST NOTHING.

Men's Full Suits—The kind we were making the run on at $5 before the fire are now .. **$1.75**

Men's Light Overcoats—Damaged by water only, all dry now, and when pressed as good as ever..... **$2**

Men's Strong Pants—They were up in the gallery and were not wet at all, only smoked **35c**

Men's Suspenders—No apparent damage by either water or smoke..... **3c**

Men's Handkerchiefs—Plain white and just as good as ever..... **3 FOR 10c**

Neckties—The water did not get into them for most of them were in the show cases..... **5c**

Men's Sack Suits—In brown, gray and oxfords, only slightly wet and smoked of course, sold for $10 before the fire..... **$3**

Boys' Suits that sold for $5 before the fire, only smoked, go now for..... **$2.50**

Men's Cutaway Suits—The $18 and $20 kind. They were only smoked, not hurt a bit; go now for **$6**

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