

A Stupendous Blast.

On Wednesday of last week the schooner Paralle, Miller master, cleared from S. F. for Astoria. Her cargo consisted mainly of dynamite—1635 50-pound cases—amounting to something over 40 tons, shipped by the manufacturers, Bandmann & Nielsen, and intended for blasting on lines of railroad construction in Oregon. Beside this, she carried in her hold a quantity of hay, coal, kerosene oil and pig iron, and a large case of detonating caps, and on deck lumber and a salmon boat.

By Saturday night her owner, S. B. Peterson, of this city, supposed her 200 or 300 miles on the way to her destined port; but owing, as the captain states, to light winds, she had barely got outside the heads, and the breeze dying out altogether, was found to be drifting toward the Seal Rocks.

Seeing that the vessel was bound to go ashore, and fearing an explosion as soon as she struck, the captain and seven men abandoned her, taking to the boat and pulling across to the shores of Marin county. The schooner soon went upon the rocks north of the Cliff House, just around and beyond the rugged point shown in the engraving, and was bumped upon them by the waves for three or four hours before the final crash.

Meanwhile, a number of persons in the vicinity had become aware that a vessel was ashore, but knew nothing of the perilous load she carried, and were watching her from the bluff above or endeavoring to save something from the wreck. Before long it was discovered that no soul was left aboard; and happily most of the watchers had betaken themselves to rest when, a little past midnight, came the frightful concussion that blew the craft to splinters, shattered buildings on the adjacent heights, and showered the neighborhood with fragments of rock, broken timbers, and scraps of rigging. Had the explosion occurred an hour or two earlier, many lives must have been lost; as it was, three of the crew from the Life-Saving Station received serious injuries.

Those who were on the spot give thrilling accounts of their terrible experiences, which are narrated in detail by the city press. The shock was felt as far away as Vacaville, Stockton and San Jose. The scene of the disaster was visited on Sunday by curious crowds—the largest, probably, that ever gathered at the Cliff—the Ocean railroad proved unequal to convey the myriads back from the beach, and while greedy hackmen charged almost any price they pleased, many pilgrims were compelled to plod their weary way homeward on foot to the outer termini of the cable-roads.

The principal damage was done to the further side of the Cliff House, and to structures beyond and above it, which do not appear in the picture.

Cornering Turkish Prunes.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—The Commercial Bulletin says: The market for Turkish prunes continues to excite the interest of the entire trade. The six-cent point prices they were expected to attain has been arrived at, and the advancing tendency of the market has not been checked. The situation to-day is regarded stronger than at any time past. It is generally conceded that speculators have matters pretty well their own way. At Trieste the market has been excited by the operations of the syndicate here and it is difficult to obtain free offers of stock. The syndicate now claims to possess control of the world's stock of Turkish prunes, and they announce the action they propose to take in governing the future market. They intend working in the interest of all dealers, and will arrange matters so that all will be protected. They will lead off immediately with an offering of 1000 casks, in lots of not less than 100, at six cents, and will enter into an agreement with the buyer that no sale in quantity or at a less price will be made, the seller to forfeit \$50 per cask upon proof of any such transaction. Following the placing of the first thousand a second thousand casks will be offered at six and a half cents, and so on in lots of 1000 by half-cent advances until the price of 10 cents is reached, after which time it is believed the stock will be small and further governing will be unnecessary.

DEATH OF A VALUABLE HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN COW.—A telegram from San Luis Obispo reports the death, on the 16th inst., of E. W. Steele's famous Holstein-Friesian cow, Anna Dulytra, a portrait and account of whom appeared in the RURAL PRESS last September. Many interested in the improvement of stock and friendly to Mr. Steele will be with us in regretting the loss of this noble creature and sympathizing with the disappointment of her owner. It is reported that Mr. Steele paid over \$1000 for her last year.

PHENIX, ARIZONA.—We have received from G. W. Ingalls & Co., mining and real estate agents at Phoenix, a large and singularly handsome chromo-lithograph, giving a birds-eye view of that city, set about with 10 or 12 lesser pictures of noteworthy buildings and other interesting objects in the neighborhood. A concise account of the town—its location, climate, industries, institutions and prospects—completes a publication at once pleasing and valuable.

List of U. S. Patents for Pacific Coast Inventors.

Reported by Dewey & Co., Pioneer Patent Solicitors for Pacific States.

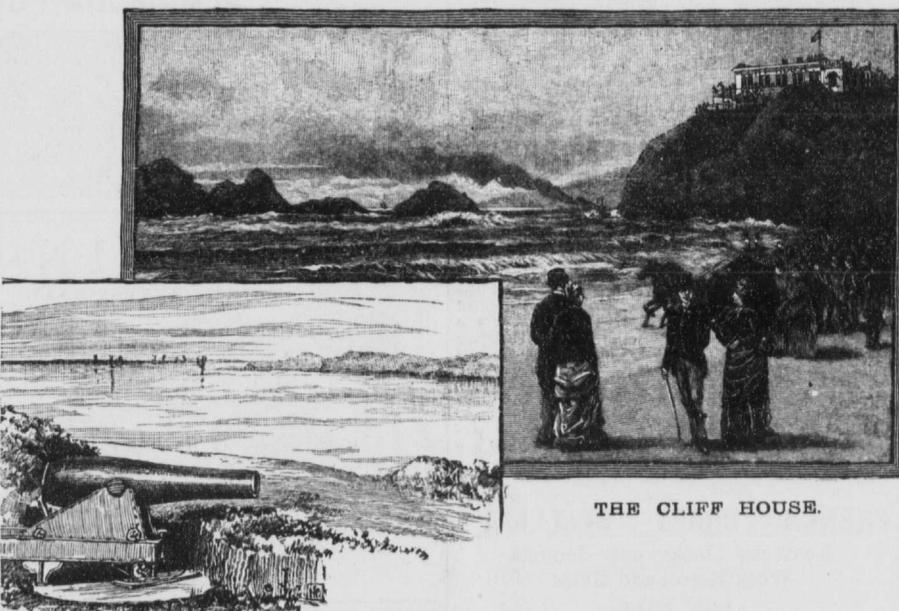
From the official report of U. S. Patents in DEWEY & Co.'s Patent Office Library, 252 Market St., S. F.

- FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 4, 1887.
355,371.—PATTERN FOR HORSESHOES—J. E. Bingham, Walla Walla, W. T.
355,586.—VENTILATING CARS—Buckley & Koefoed, S. F.
355,587.—VENTILATING CARS—Buckley & Koefoed, S. F.
355,436.—WIRE CLOTH STRETCHER—P. A. Buell, Stockton, Cal.
355,602.—GOPHER GUN—F. L. Emerson, Brentwood, Cal.
355,463.—CAR AXLE—W. J. Murray, Jolon, Cal.
355,412.—ELECTROLYTE—W. Y. Quinby, S. F.
355,655.—STEAM BOILER—G. H. Sutherland, Walla Walla, W. T.
355,656.—SELF-OILING PULLEY—E. S. Sutton, Snohomish, W. T.

NOTE.—Copies of U. S. and Foreign Patents furnished by DEWEY & Co., in the shortest time possible (by mail or telegraphic order). American and Foreign patents obtained, and general patent business for Pacific Coast inventors transacted with perfect security, at reasonable rates and in the shortest possible time.

California Canned Fruit.

EDITORS PRESS:—I have thought for some time that a word from here in regard to California canned fruit might be of interest to you. I think the goods of only two canning companies are on the market here this winter, A. Lusk & Co. and the Cutting Packing Co., though a



THE CLIFF HOUSE.

OVERLOOKING THE GOLDEN GATE.

year ago the California Packing Co.'s goods were on the market. In my family we have been using peaches, Muscat grapes, German prunes and egg plums, put up by A. Lusk & Co., apricots by Cutting Packing Co., and green gage plums by the California Packing Co., alternating these with fruit put up by Baltimore firms. The superiority of the California fruits over those put up by the Eastern firms is too marked to be for a moment doubted by any one who tries them. Indeed the wonder is how those delicate flavors so peculiar to such fruits as Muscat grapes, apricots, and in fact all the fruits mentioned, can be so completely retained.

G. H. FRENCH.

Southern Illinois Industrial University, Carbondale.

A PRESENT TO A PRESIDENT.—The students of the Pacific Business College, in this city, surprised Prof. T. A. Robinson two days before New Year's, by giving him a handsome black cane, with an elaborate gold handle, suitably inscribed. Felicitous presentation speeches were made by Messrs. A. D. Ewing and W. A. McNamara; and Pres. Robinson, though taken off his guard by this manifestation of his pupils' kind regard, responded in a strain playful yet feeling.

"THE WINNERS" is the title of a brilliant X-mas card, 24x18 inches, from D. M. Osborne & Co., Auburn, N. Y. It bears life-like portraits of Jay Eye See, Maud S., and other famous flyers, as well as delineations of the Osborne Mower and Steel-frame Binder.

New Subscription Terms.

Our recent new terms for inducing payment of subscriptions in advance are meeting with favor in all quarters. New subscribers are coming in and old patrons are again entering their names. We are confident of greatly increasing our large list of subscribers within the next few months. A few subscribers have complained of paying at the rate of \$3.50 when fully one year in arrears. To induce all such to settle up, we will, during the next 30 days, give all such the privilege of paying all back dues at the rate of \$3.25 per annum. Jan. 22, 1887.

The Chamber of Commerce on Fruit and Silk.

At the annual meeting of this body in this city, Jan. 18th, an address was made by the retiring president, H. L. Dodge, in which the following allusions were made to agricultural subjects:

Freight Rates on Fruit.

A special meeting of the trustees was held Jan. 14th, at which resolutions were adopted requesting the railroad company to take green fruit to Chicago in ten-car lots at \$300 per car. The substance of these resolutions was telegraphed to Messrs. Stanford, Huntington and Crocker, with the gratifying result that on the following day a telegram was received from Mr. Huntington, saying:

"We wish to move fruit product at lowest price possible and still pay any net money to carriers. Have telegraphed Mr. Towne, General Manager, to do the best he can, with the request that he take fruit to Chicago at \$300, and to New York at \$400, per car, unless he has good and substantial reasons why it should not be done."

Silk Culture.

This industry has become of sufficient importance to merit notice here. The soil and climate of California are admirably adapted to the culture of the mulberry tree, 20,000 of which already dot our foothills.

The enterprise can be entered into at a minimum of expense. The wives and children of our farmers can do the work and the cocoons find ready sale to the manufacturers.

Improved machinery of American invention has placed our country in the lead of all others



THE CLIFF HOUSE.

in the manufacture of spun or waste silk, and our American consul at Lyons recently expressed the opinion that in a few years the product of silk and silk goods could be made to amount to \$50,000,000 a year in the United States.

The value of the manufactures of a single town—Paterson, N. J.—increased from \$5,000,000 in 1874 to over \$18,000,000 in 1880. The production of the raw silk in the United States last year is estimated at 40,000 pounds.

Very large importations of raw silk are made at great expense which could and should be produced in this country. The enterprise has received considerable encouragement from Congress and from the State of California, and it is to be hoped that more material aid will be rendered.

A Blessing.

Nothing adds more to the security of life, of happiness, and of health, than a safe and reliable family medicine. S. L. R. has won for itself the appellation of "the family blessing." If a child has the Colic, it is sure, safe and pleasant. If the father is exhausted, overworked, debilitated, it will restore his failing strength. If the wife suffers from Dyspepsia, Low Spirits, Headache, it will give relief. If any member of the family has eaten anything hard to digest, a dose of the Regulator will soon establish good digestion. It gives refreshing sleep even in cases where narcotics have failed. It is a preventive, perfectly harmless, to begin with, no matter what the attack, it will afford relief. No error to be feared in administering; no injury from exposure after taking; no change of diet required; no neglect of duties or loss of time. Simmons Liver Regulator is entirely vegetable and is the purest and best family medicine compounded. J. H. Zeilin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., sole proprietors.

ORANGE CULTURE

A practical treatise by T. A. GAREY, giving the results of long experience in Southern California. 196 pages, cloth bound. Sent post-paid at reduced price of 75 cts. per copy by DEWEY & CO., Publishers, S. F.

Rural Seed Offering—1886.

Great Inducements for New Subscriptions.

To encourage gardening and further extend the circulation of the PACIFIC RURAL PRESS, we will offer, while this notice remains in our columns, to furnish to all old or new subscribers the following seeds on the favorable terms named below:

Table listing various vegetable seeds and their prices. Columns include 'In Papers, postpaid', '83 Varieties', and 'Cts'. Items include Early Blood Turnip, White Sugar, Yellow Sugar, Early Long Dark Blood, etc.

FLOWER SEEDS.

Table listing various flower seeds and their prices. Columns include '107 Varieties' and 'Cts'. Items include Acaulia Coccinea, Campanula Speculum, etc.

Refer to Nos. in latest issue when ordering.

For \$1.00 we will furnish new subscribers the PACIFIC RURAL PRESS for three months, and \$1.00 worth of the above seeds. For \$1.75 the RURAL six months and \$1.00 worth of seeds. For \$3.25 the RURAL one year, and \$1 worth of seeds. For \$4.50 the RURAL for eighteen months and \$1 in seeds. The seeds will be carefully forwarded, post paid, from some one or more of our leading and reliable seedsmen, whose name will accompany the package. In ordering, write on a separate sheet the number only of each article wanted as numbered, together with your address.

Old subscribers can advance payment so that their subscriptions will be paid the same length of time in advance and receive the same terms as above. Those who have remitted since this offer was made can send the additional amount which would have entitled them to a premium, and receive the same by stating which numbers they prefer.

For other kinds of seeds, or for seeds in larger packages, patrons are referred to reliable seedsmen advertising in this paper. We wish to aid in increasing the planting and cultivation of gardens.

We are not going to embark in the regular seed business, and have not time to investigate or answer many questions of private interest only, nor respond to orders received without remittances.

Subscribers will please notify neighbors who do not take this paper of this offer, and the merits of the RURAL. In writing correspondence, items of information, or on other business, please use a separate sheet.

FLAX-GROWING IN CALIFORNIA.—The Ventura Free Press says: "About 2000 acres of flax have been sown in this county this year, and we hear the most favorable accounts of it. As this is a cash crop, and worth four times as much as barley, and takes no more work, is hardier, without risk from insect, rust or disease of any kind, it is a most desirable industry for our county."