

with their lances and make noises to frighten the evil spirits away. When a person dies he is seldom buried at once. His family, so I am told, fear he will be lonesome on his way to the happy hunting ground, and they try to accustom him to solitude. They hang the corpse from the rafters or poles inside the hut and for the first day or so speak to him frequently. They talk to him at their meals and treat him as though he were alive. From day to day, however, they pay less and less attention to him, until they think he has grown accustomed to being alone, when they bury him. Sometimes, instead of being hung up, the corpse is laid in the little attic on the poles which form the ceiling of the living room. How decomposition is prevented, I do not know, but I should think the dense smoke which is kept up in these huts the greater part of the day would serve to cure anything, dead or alive.

In nearly all of these Araucanian communities there is a prophess or woman "medicine man," who is supposed to be able to ward off the evil spirit or tell why it will not down. The evil spirit is at the root of all the Araucanian's woes. It brings bad crops and is the cause of all diseases. At the time of sickness the prophess is called in. She goes through a lot of incantations and other antics over the patient. If he recovers it is solely due to her skill, but if not it must be the evil spirit who has been led to afflict the sick by some one of his enemies. The prophess at once proclaims that the patient has been bewitched and points out the man or woman who bewitched him. In such cases where death ensues the relatives of the deceased are liable to kill the person so charged with being a witch.

I spent some time on the Indian farms. They are good farmers not a few using American machinery, such as plows. They are as a rule rather stock men than grain raisers. I found very few of the men laboring in the fields, and, I am told, that the women do the most of the farm work, except on the farms of the larger land owners where the rotos or Chilean peasants act as hired hands. The roto is the product of crossing the Spaniard and the Indian blood. Like most hybrids he is in many respects worse than either of the people from whom he descended, often having the vices of both and the virtues of neither. The Indian, I am told, is cleaner than the peon. He is more honest and self-respecting. Until very recently no Indian could be gotten to work for a white man, and today the Araucanian feels himself the equal of any person on earth. He has always been a man of some civilization, and he had his farms and his stock when the Spaniard came to this continent. The clothes he wears are woven by his wives, and his ponchos have all the bright colors and much of the beauty of the blankets made by our Navajo Indians.

The Araucanian is a shrewd trader, but as a rule he seems not to care for money. I have tried a number of times to buy the blankets of Indians whom I met by offering what they should have considered good prices, but have invariably failed. It was the same with the jewelry, which I tried to purchase of the girls. The only place to get such things is in the pawn shops of the frontier towns. The Indians are fond of liquor. They drink the vilest of alcohol and when out of money will sell or pawn almost anything they have for the means of getting. This brings them to the pawnbrokers, and the result is that you can often pick up their curious jewelry or beautiful blankets quite cheap. I was offered today a pair of solid silver stirrups, each of which weighed a pound, for 35 Chilean dollars, or almost \$12 in our money, and I

bought an almost new hand-woven poncho, as big as a bed quilt, for 10 dollars in silver, or for \$3.50 in American gold.

It is on account of his desire for alcohol that the government has forbidden the Indian to sell his lands. Unscrupulous speculators have until now been robbing him of them in many parts of the country, so that only a comparatively small amount of what he has had remains. This part of Chile is settling up so fast that the demand for land grows greater day by day, and it is only a question of time when the property now reserved to the Araucanians will be thrown on the market. The railroad is bringing the white man further and further south, and the days of the Araucanians are numbered.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

MR. BIGLER'S TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

St. George, Utah, Sept. 25, 1898.

At this late date a thought has sprung up in me to give you an account of my visit last winter to the Golden Jubilee in San Francisco, held under the auspices of the Society of California Pioneers to celebrate the 24th of January, it being just fifty years since the gold was found at Sutter's sawmill. The jubilee lasted a week. James S. Brown of your city, Azariah Smith of Mantl, William Johnston and myself, the only survivors who were present with Marshall at the time he found the precious stuff; we were invited by the Golden Jubilee committee to attend at their expense; they would furnish us first-class transportation there and back in a Pullman sleeping car and pay our hotel bill while there etc. The jubilee was a grand affair. The demonstrations were brilliant and imposing, and every night grand balls. Every lady wanted to know which of us four was Mr. Bigler. This was because the true date of the finding the gold was through me, as Marshall had given it by memory and had missed it about a week.

We were met by the committee at Oakland and taken to the Russ house on Montgomery street in San Francisco, a first class hotel. I had hardly got out of the cars at Oakland when a lady whom I had never seen, came up to me and said, "Mr. Bigler, I am pleased to meet you; I know your history, I have read your diary and I want to pin this badge on your coat collar," the badge was goldlike in color, at the top were these words: "California Golden Jubilee, Jan. 24, 1898." Under this was: "Society of California Pioneers, 1849." We were kept up every night by reporters and visitors till a late hour and every day taken out in a carriage to see the sights of the city. We were taken to the Golden Gate park, where there was deer, elk, antelope, moose and buffalo and a grizzly bear nine years old that weighed over a ton. We were also taken to the museum. Here we saw a mermaid which I had always taken to be a hoax, to be sure it had a face that somewhat resembled a child's face, but it had no arms and hands, it had fins and a tail like a fish. We were taken to the Union Iron works where there were 2,900 men at work and everything that was going on was explained to us. At Pioneer hall our photographs were taken and our autographs called for and given by the score. We were taken to the Miner's pavilion where there was a large audience, and introduced to many and speeches were made and a general time of shaking hands, etc.

HENRY. W. BIGLER.

Gum euphorbium has been found in Natana to be an effective rust preventive, iron objects being free from rust even after two years immersion in sea-water.

WESTERN NEWS ITEMS.

The Idaho Intermountain fair closed Saturday evening. It has been a great success throughout.

Omaha Stockman, Oct. 8: W. L. White of Wasatch, Utah, marketed two double-deck cars of sheep.

The returning transport Indiana arrived at San Francisco Sunday, forty days from Manila, via Yokohama, twenty-six days.

Major F. H. Whitman, Twentieth Kansas, has been detailed upon the general court martial, relieving Col J. H. Wholley of the First Washington.

Hon. Joseph Simon of Portland, Ore., was Saturday elected United States senator by the legislature in joint session, to fill the vacancy which has existed since March 4, 1897. Mr. Simon received the entire vote of the Republicans. The ballot stood: Simon, 64; Kincaid, 23; Bennett, 2; absent, 1.

Maj. M. P. Wyman, the first volunteer of the Civil War, died at Tacoma Saturday from sunstroke. He enlisted when 19 years old as fireman on the flagship Minnesota, on April 12, 1861, a few hours after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and fought aboard the Monitor in the engagement with the Merrimac.

General Merriam has called on General Miller for the complete field returns of all the troops in his command. This he did for the purpose of seeing how to best select commands to go on the different transports. They have to be chosen with regard to the capacity of the vessel and an effort will be made not to overcrowd any of the transports.

Admiral Miller, who raised the United States flag over the Hawaiian islands, returned to his flagship the Philadelphia. The admiral is reticent regarding affairs on the islands, but regards the situation there as satisfactory to this government. While on a trial trip out of Honolulu, fire was discovered in the bunkers of the Philadelphia. It was extinguished before any damage was done.

The naval court martial in the case of Chaplain Jos. H. McIntyre has completed its verdict, and Captain C. H. Lauchheimer, judge advocate of the court, is on his way to Washington bearing the document to the head of the navy department. No portion of his contents are to be made public until it is given out from the proper authorities at the national capital.

The San Francisco Call, says that when the Gaelic leaves that port tomorrow she will have on board two local bankers bound for Hawaii. Upon their arrival a bank will be established in Honolulu, which will be called the First National Bank of Hawaii, with a capitalization of \$1,000,000. The local bankers, whose names are withheld, will be accompanied by Fletcher S. Heath of New York, who represents several wealthy men in this city.

Charles W. Vosmer, an aeronaut, fell from a balloon at the Chutes, a pleasure resort near Golden Gate park, San Francisco, Sunday afternoon and received serious injuries, several ribs, besides an arm and leg being broken. He made the ascent hanging by his teeth to a strap attached to a trapeze. His body failed to clear the ropes and wires surrounding the grounds and he was thrown from a height of about fifty feet into the street. He will recover unless internally injured.

The big forest fires of Colorado are gaining momentum again, the fall of snow a week ago in the Elk Mountain range having proved only a temporary check. The cattle herds are being removed from the Muddy Meadows, as