

## Pheasants

One day this week a flock of Chinese pheasants alighted in the yard of Mrs. Jesse Parish near Jefferson, Marion county, Ogn. - They consisted of one male and five or six females. The male bird was perfectly gorgeous in his plumage having a heavy top knot and a very long tail, the feathers being very beautiful and all the plumage very brilliant.

The bird is one of the most wonderful of the feathered creation and was introduced from China a few years ago. Several pair were turned loose on the Ankeny farm in the Santiam bottoms about 10 miles from Salem several years ago and the flock mentioned must be part of the increase--The Washington Farmer, Dec. 6, 1884.

## Blueback Run 1886 (1)

The pretty blueback salmon has made its appearance in the market again.

It is the most graceful of the salmons and the most elegant in color and also one of the smallest species, the males averaging about 5 pounds and the females less than 4 pounds in weight. Next to the Quinnot or Chinook it is the most valuable of the different species, and its inferiority is mainly that of size. In many places it is known as the "red fish", from the color of its flesh, which is very similar to that of the Chinook and is preferred by some on account of being less oily.

These fish are the most important on the Fraser river, where it runs till midsummer, and is known as the "suk-keg", or as it is more commonly pronounced, the "sock-eye." They form the greater portion of the fish canned on the Fraser.

Some are canned on the Columbia. They are too small to be taken in the seines commonly used, but are caught principally at the Cascades in fish wheels and in dip nets. It is a rather stirring sight to see a number of brawny fellows standing on a piece of plank supported by bolts driven in the rocks overhanging the seething, foaming torrent of the Cascades, continually sweeping their long-handled dip nets through some narrow channel or swirling eddy, sometimes bringing out four or five of the pretty bluebacks, and occasionally a Chinook salmon, and then dipping many times in succession without catching any.

The blueback has its breeding grounds in Willowa lake, or rather in the gravelly beds of two streams which enter the head of this lake. After entering this lake, they soon change to a reddish color, as is common with many species at spawning time.



Blueback Run 1886(2)

They are taken in great numbers there and salted for consumption in that section. They used to be considered a variety of fish peculiar to that lake, and wonderful stories were told about the "red trout" of Wallowa Lake, their numbers, size and excellence.

The fish wheels at the Cascades are likely to considerably lessen the number of fish reaching the lake, although as the run commences before the water has risen enough to set the wheels in motion, a part of the fish pass free of molestation except from the dip nets. The river is rising now, and the dippers are at work, and a sight of them plying their hazardous trade over the roaring torrent will repay a visit to the Cascade Locks--Portland Oregonian.

--Northwest Magazine, June 1886

A fight to the Death. The Encounter of a Brave Indian Boy with a Blood-Thirsty Cougar.

Last week a party of Yakima Indians were encamped on the Tietan(copy) catching and drying fish for their winter supplies. One of them, a lad of 16 years, had wandered up the stream about a mile and a half from the camp and was busily engaged in wooing the trout when he heard the snapping of a twig behind him. Startled, he looked around to have his undefined fears take a frightful shape for there, not fifteen feet away, was a huge cougar crouched in that attitude that preludes the leap.

With a presence of mind beyond his years the lad kept his eyes on those of the immense brute, trying to evolve in his mind some means of escape.

He had no gun or weapon of any kind so decided the only thing he could do was to take his chances with a rock but the minute he took his eyes from these of the cougar to pick up the rock the cat made a spring and was upon him. Then commenced a fearful encounter.

How long it lasted it is impossible to say, the boy claiming that it was an hour and a half's duration but probably his terror over the awful situation in which he found himself made the minutes seem of interminable length.

Twice did the boy break from the clutches of the beast and jump into the stream only to be dragged out and forced to go through the struggle again. Worn out and terribly lacerated he spurred himself to make one more attempt for his life. Again he broke away and dashed into the stream, this time rushing out into the deeper water.

The cougar, thirsting for the blood it had already tasted boldly plunged in and grappled with the brave lad but this time he was at a disadvantage.

and relate his thrilling experience. The father of the boy and some other Indians went to the point designated and took the cougar from the water and stripped the carcass of the skin. Charley Olney, an educated Indian, related this story to a Herald reporter the other day, and Captain Priestley, agent of the Yakimas, corroborated it so far as stating that the account was current on the reservation and that he had seen the boy, who was in a sad plight, his breast being shockingly torn and lacerated and his left hand and arm so badly injured as to be permanently disabled, if it was not lost altogether. In other ways the young hero showed evidence of the superhuman struggle through which he had passed--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, June 20, 1889.



## Ground Squirrels

Among the advantages Yakima has over other sub-divisions of the state is that it is practically free from the squirrel pest for these annoying and destroying rodents can get no substantial foothold in an irrigated country.

Over in Garfield county the commissioners paid \$2,400 in bounties for squirrel scalps for April and the estimate for May is \$5,000.

Two cents a scalp is paid and the number turned in last month was \$120,000--Yakima Herald, May 18, 1893.

## Mountain Lions

Dillie, the 12-year-old daughter of John Flock, an Asotin farmer, narrowly escaped attack from a mountain lion.

At a sharp turn in the trail the girl came in full view of a large and ugly looking lion. It slowly advanced toward her, when she called for her dog. The dog appeared upon the scene and made for the lion, but kept out of reach of the animal's sharp claws. The dog kept worrying and tormenting the beast to attract its attention from the child until the little girl was out of harm's way, when it, too, left for the home of its master--Yakima Herald, March 8, 1894.

## Rattlesnakes

Speaking of rattlesnakes and Cowychee's girl champion in the war of extermination there being waged, the report is brought in that Albert Jaquith, a 15-year-old boy in the same valley last week killed 75 of these dangerous reptiles in three days.

Cowychee seems to have more than her share of this animal; and there are no applications in from other sections for a division so far as heard from--Yakima Herald, July 19 , 1894.



Much has been printed and scattered broadcast for the information of settlers describing of the resources..agricultural lands,mines, forests of cedar, fir, hemlock, tamarack, white and yellow pine etc. the landlocked archipelago of Puget sound,climate, grazing lands etc. but little has been told of the myriads of game that make their haunts amid our wilds...

While the buffalo and antelope are long since numbered as unknown, quantities on the Western slope of the Rocky mountain, large game is abundant in the forest districts embracing the true grizzly, the Rocky Mountain grey, the mammoth cinnamon, the black and bald faced bear, grizzly, lynx, wildcat, mountain lion, cougar, wolverine, coyote, grey and black wolf, beaver, ermine, fisher, seal, otter, grey, black and red fox, grey, black and red squirrel, raccoon, muskrat, martin, mink, weasel, blue grouse, fool hen, golden and bald eagle, snipe, plover, geese, brant, ducks, swan, trout, salmon, true rock cod, smelt, herring, haddock, greyling, clams, oysters etc.

Of deer there are five varieties the large muley with ears as large as a mule's ears, face and brush tail being black and specimens are met with as large as an elk of 640 to 400 pounds; Another variety is the silver grey with whitish face and body, a very trim gazelle like creature of as much grace as the spring buck and its antlers a perfection of symmetry. Then there are spotted and pure white deer. The common white tail deer is very numerous. Moose, elk and caribou are often encountered.

The pure white mountain goat with small sharp black horns and eyes of a deep black lustre, far excelling those of the Spanish señorita abound among the crags of the highest mountains.

About the British boundary and from there north the genuine ibex



and reindeer are encountered in large bands

The jack rabbit, quite similar to the great hare of England Australia and Texas are super abundant and ~~added~~ the molly cotton or sage rabbit are as common as house flies.

It may be mentioned that in the country bordering Puget Sound the black bear does not hibernate, hole up, in winter as he does in colder regions but roams at large.

The hair of the white goat, six inches long, is spun and woven by the Indian women and knitted into blankets by a primitive process.

Mountain sheep, commonly so called, is classified in natural history as the Big Horn. They are common in portions of this territory and their mutton is only excelled by that of the native goat.

The countless millions of fur animals and water fowl would require a volume to describe them.

It is worth of note in connection with our article on celery in another column that the water fowl prefer the wild celery along the sea shores, bays and lakes of the territory to almost any other food--The "Washington Farmer," Dec. 25, 1894.



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## Rabbits

A new industry is promised for Yakima and while it is yet in its infancy, if it develops according to expectations of its promoters it may become a very important one in the valley.

The new industry is that of breeding and growing the Belgian or English hare for market.

Already there are quite a number of these innocent looking little creatures in the valley and the number is increasing. Dr. Gordon has a herd of 13 and Sydney Noble and H.J. Snively each are the owners of a pair. Out at Artemesia J.Q. Peck, who by the way was the first to introduce the little animal to Yakima, is the owner of quite a number as is also W.T. Clark, his neighbor.-----The Yakima Democrat, March 17, 1900.



## Jackrabbits

A new delicacy is soon to be introduced into the Northwest markets. It is in the shape of canned jackrabbits.

Not the product of the docile Belgian hare, whose advent into this section started a get-rich-quick fever, but the gamey jacks who cavort through the sage brush and alfalfa fields of the inland empire, An Echo, Oregon man is promoting a cannery that is expected to materialized within 30 days and has figured out immense profits in the enterprise.

An enterprising genius has ~~im~~ perfected a device for catching your rabbit and there is said to be no lack of raw material for a big business. The product is asserted by a correspondent to taste like canned chicken but a ready market is figured on at 30 cents a pound.

The new industry will prove a double header in that, while big profits are in sight, it will also rid the farmers of a troublesome pest--West Coast Trade, February, 1903



The big coyote round up which is to take place below  
 "illah Saturday December 16 premises to be a very exciting affair.  
 The round up will be general and free for all, especially for those  
 having trained hounds.

There will be no lack of quarry. The coyotes are unusually  
 numerous this year. It is reported that one Indian alone living  
 on the reservation has killed more than 400 coyotes in the last two  
 months, collecting a bounty of \$2 on each.

The committee in charge of the round up is receiving communications  
 from all over the county asking that the writers names be  
 recorded for a place in the ring. It is intended that for the first  
 day's drive the people from Granger will follow down the river and  
 along the mountains. The Outlook contingent will

cross Nipes mountain in a southeasterly direction while the  
 Sunnyside boys will fill the ring east and south. ~~Those~~ Those from  
 Belma and Mabton will drive nowrhwst following up the  
 river until the circle is completed when the game will be  
 rounded up, somewhere about section 9 or 16 in range 9.

The following are committeemen: James Henderson, Sunnyside;  
 Dean and Woods, Granger, R.J. Beckett, Mabton; Martin Jackson,  
 Mabton; R.F. D.; Clarence Taylor, Outlook; ~~Adelbert~~ Adelbert Van Winkle,  
 Riverside, The Yakima Herald, Dec. 6, 1905.

Some unknown animal is committing depredations upon the cattle on the N<sub>1</sub>le and a range on the Rattlesnake.

Frequently cattle are attacked and mangled, always in the region of the right flank. A number have been fatally injured. Many have their tails bitten off. It is the belief of some that the work is done by mountain lions.

The attacks have been of frequent occurrence since last fall and are becoming more and more frequent. Mr. Able is making strenuous effort to discover the animal marauders--The Yakima Herald, April 18, 1906.



Construction work on the north bank railroad now buidling through  
Hover was suddenly stopped Sunday "hile one of the bigsteam  
shovels at work on the grade in one of the rock cuts north of  
the village was throwing dirt to the dumpers, the dipper picked up a  
whole nest of rattlesnakes. The snakes wriggled to the top of the  
earth as the shovel moved and several fell on the men beneath the  
machine.

Two ran down the crane past Cranesman Carlson who hastily jumped to  
the ground to be brought face to face with a rattler coiled ready for  
the fatal strike.

The engineer of the shovel, not understanding the commotion among  
the men moved the levers and the bucket dumped a couple of yards  
of earth and several reptile into the car adjoining  
the donkey engine run by Engineer Warren of Spokane.

One large snake and a small one in their efforts to escape fell  
into the cab of the locomotive and the engineer went out through the  
front of his cab into the running board. Brakeman employed on the train  
killed the snakes and work was resumed. Later in the day while Engineer  
Higgins was oiling the steam machinery he found an unusually large  
rattler coiled about the tool chest of the machine.

This snake had eleven rattles and a button-The Yakima Herald, July  
25, 1906/



Unconcerned and without fear a mountain lion trotted along North Sixth street Friday morning. The animal was seen by Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Davis at 5:30 o'clock as it passed their residence. It jumped an irrigation ditch and then took to the street. It went up north sixth street toward the hills.

This is the first lion seen here for some time within the city limits. A short while ago occasionally one was seen near the river at the end of Sixth street but very seldom had they entered the residence district.

There are usually no lions in the hills near the city and a man who has done considerable hunting stated that it would have to come at least 30 miles.

A boy was attacked by a mountain lion about a year ago near the Cascade mills.

A number of old-timers tell of mountain lions being seen close to the city at various times and do not consider the incident greatly out of the ordinary--The Yakima Herald, April 10, 1907.