

TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA

ARRIVAL OF THE MOSES TAYLOR.

THE FRASER RIVER EXCITEMENT.

RESULT OF THE OREGON ELECTION.

\$1,463,917 in Gold.

The U. S. Mail steamer Joseph Taylor arrived at New York on Tuesday morning, with the California mail of the 5th inst., and \$1,463,917 in gold. The following is her cargo:

Table listing cargo items and their values, including various goods, clothing, and other supplies.

We tender our thanks to the Porter of the Moses Taylor, and to Wells, Fargo & Co's Express Company for the prompt delivery of California files.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

San Francisco, July 29, 1858.

The summary of news which has absorbed public attention here during the last fortnight may be expressed in two words—"Fraser River." Everything else sinks into insignificance in comparison with it. To describe the excitement, or to convey a full idea of it, is impossible. Your stock in the mad population on the Atlantic is incapable of becoming agitated or of understanding the extent to which we are excited. Everybody knows what a ferment was caused throughout the Union in 1849 by the emigration to California. Multiply that excitement by ten, and you may form an appropriate conception of the present ferment here. There were then 4,000,000 white men in the Union, of whom 100,000, or one in 40, left for California during the year. On the 1st of April, there were 140,000 white men in this State; 14,000 (one some say 20,000), or one in ten, have already gone to Fraser River, and 30,000 more are preparing to go.

The Fourth of July has been an extremely dull one. There was no public demonstration in this city, nor any in most of the interior towns. Cause, Fraser River. The contractors who engaged to carry the mails from Sacramento and Stockton to most of the large towns in the interior, have failed to keep their contracts. Cause, Fraser River. But I must leave Fraser River, here and give a separate notice.

The Democratic party for delegates to the State Convention, have commenced. The Leconteites have carried Dal Norte and Nevada; the Anti Leconteites have Phoebe. In Alameda the two factions have separated—each has elected its own set of delegates. The Supreme Court has ordered the Sunday law to be unconstitutional. The law prohibited the opening of business houses and the sale and exposure for sale of goods. The Court decides the act to be unconstitutional for two reasons. First, it that it discards a rule in favor of Christianity against Judaism and other forms of faith, under which Sunday is not a sacred day. The Constitution of the State provides that "the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall never be infringed." The Court says that to prohibit the transaction of business on the Christian Sabbath is to give a slight to the Jewish Sabbath, which the framers of the Constitution never intended to permit. The second reason is that the act interferes with the right of acquiring property, which is held sacred under the Constitution. In all these points the Court bids defiance to the authority of nearly all previous decisions of our State. The language of those clauses in our Constitution guaranteeing religious freedom and equality, and the declaring of wealth and happiness, and liberty and the pursuit of it, are not to be construed as their judicial interpretation before California dreamed of becoming an American State. But our judges are queer fellows. They don't believe in following precedents. It seems to them that Sunday laws are a preference for Christianity as would be the enactment unconstitutional, if it admitted that previous judicial decisions are to have no weight, and if the language be taken entirely independent of a common theory that Christianity is a part of the basis of our government. The other side of the Court took that to be unconstitutional because it interferes with the acquisition of property—is absurd, and will only render the Court contemptible in the eyes of lawyers. Chief Justice Terry and Judge Barnard concur in the decision. Judge Field dissent. A rumor says that the general election discovered in Warner's Ranch, in San Diego County.

POLITICAL LINES OF TRAVEL, PROSPECTS.

San Francisco, July 1, 1858.

In the isolated and far distant quarter of the Union there are many who watch with eager interest the deadly struggle now going on between Slavery and Freedom, the issue of which will decide the future destiny of our nation.

This State, though not apparently interested in the result, is practically so to a degree which few appreciate or perceive.

Ever since the South failed to establish the "peculiar institution" in California, she has tried to regain the ascendancy on the Pacific coast, with the double view of introducing Slavery, and, in case of a dissolution of the Union, of detaching this State and the adjoining territories from the North and West.

To effect this object she has intrigued and conspired with the steamship companies to defeat every plan proposed for a northern or central overland communication by a wagon road, railroad, telegraphic lines, or military posts, while she has strained every nerve to open a southern overland route and railroad, a scheme as visionary and impracticable as the southern steamship line, and which is now being carried out by France, or any other of the plans cunningly devised by Southern brains to overreach or rival the commercial superiority of the North.

Extending this policy, backed by the Government, and the attempt to force Slavery upon Nicaragua, the entire Pacific coast is dependent for its communication to drive a Jersey wagon across the plains from Texas to San Diego twice a month, which route is highly satisfactory to all parties interested.

While the South has suffered defeat after defeat in her favorite schemes, in Nicaragua, in Kansas, and in the attempt to revive the slave trade, another mortifying failure awaits her efforts to force nature by diverting the stream of overland travel to and from the Pacific. The recent gold discoveries in the British possessions and Washington Territory, which are now almost depopulating California, will absolutely compel the opening of an overland route of a northern overland route, and then good bye to the southern steamship and railroad!

I firmly believe that private enterprise will construct a road and a telegraphic line, even without the assistance of Government, if that be withheld or refused. Within a few weeks we shall have the wires extended to Carson Valley, and it is then proposed to continue the line to Salt Lake.

I call your attention to the enclosed extract from The Sacramento Union, showing that through the influence of the South and the Government to northern interests, the country has lost the new Gold Region between 41° and 45° latitude, to which our people are now flocking at the rate of a thousand per day.

California is rapidly receding her character as a Free State, and fleeing herself from Southern rule. The Chivalry are decaying and fast going down hill, with dropping leaders, and in two or three years' time they will have known their "valley of the Union-Road." Mind also that the "valley" which we know them no more.

This city is improving socially, morally and politically, and is "gating away" as well as could be expected. "Dead babies" have now been deposited from the field, and the breeze is nearly extinct. The Consolidation Bill, or new City Charter of 1856, the Vigilance Committee, and hard times, have compelled them to seek more congenial climes.

In this city, as in all others, it was found that the Street Department was the great field for plunder and the principal cause of the "valley" of property by the abuse, by giving the right of property by the right to do all necessary work, grading and repairs, at their own expense, making them liable for all damages resulting from their neglect.

It is estimated that more than half of the heavy outstanding debt of the city originated in street contracts, many of which were planned merely to draw money from the Treasury, without executing any work at all.

The city should be remodelled in New-York, and the

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes entries like 'Dues', 'Expenses', 'Total'.

Gen. Clark (the Pacific Military Division, had arrived at Port Vancouver, and was making preparations for a vigorous campaign against the Indians.

A large number of California miners had passed through Oregon with mines, on their way to Fraser River.

The way of Portland we have a rumor that 90 miners, while going to Fraser through the Yakima country, in Washington Territory, east of the Cascade Mountains, were attacked by Indians. The rumor says that 27 whites and 100 Indians were killed, and that the rest were retreated.

From Puget Sound we have news to the effect that the Indians on the Sound are getting very hostile to the Americans. War seems not improbable. Six Americans have been murdered.

A schooner laden with people going to Fraser River was captured on the 24th inst. near Point Roberts, and 13 persons were drowned. Most of them were French. Among them was Isaac Rosenbaum of Stockton.

Extract from a private letter. Up to this time about 1,000 to 1,200 people have left our State for the Fraser River mines, and probably some 3,000 or 4,000 by land or way ports. The attraction of so much tone and snow from our State makes us very aloof for help. In every department of industry we are suffering for want of men.

Among the farmers the oat grain is lying on the ground for want of men to gather and thresh it. The price of vegetables have run up because of the scarcity of men to gather the crops and till the ground. Mining claims of known value and remunerative character stand for want of men, or are occupied by Chinamen, who slip into the deserts places and quietly pocket the profits. As a matter of course, wages have gone up. Farmers, for instance, who were getting \$10 a month, struck for \$75 and got it; struck again for \$100 and got it, and finally, last week, at three steamships were leaving, struck for \$150 per month, and in one case got it. Their next strike will probably be for the ship itself at the end of the voyage. Is there to way by which your unemployed thousands at the East can come and earn the \$50 to \$100 a month which we now very much reduced, \$15 to \$25 a month being paid for board and lodging. The comforts of the coast States are to be found here; a climate of great beauty, a soil of boundless fertility, and backs up in the mines on which the willing and industrious may make daily drafts and get paid in fine gold every time.

Don't recommend any gentlemen in the Broadway sense merely to come. Let them stay at home and restly squeeze their ladies' hands, and not attempt the rough grasp of pick, shovel, hammer or sledge. Small earnings will their effeminate existences be to them here! Our mountains and fields can only be fertilized into smiling compliance by sturdy staves and hard knocks.

If \$30 to \$40 a month and board in good families is any temptation to honest, healthy girls, who can cook, wash and iron, please inform the public that several ships could be placed immediately to advantage. I must, however, close, merely appending the rates of wages now paid in the United States Navy-Yard in this State, from The San Francisco Herald of July 3:

Table listing wages for various occupations in the Navy-Yard, such as 'Master mason', 'Foreman of masons', etc.

I must be remembered that the rate of wages paid at this place are always less than the going rates in San Francisco, because the employment is steady and regular.

Salaries and Wages of about 300 persons now employed at the United States Navy-Yard, Mare Island.

Table listing various trades and their corresponding wages, such as 'Blacksmith', 'Carpenter', 'Cabinet-maker', etc.

Regular employment at the above rates may be considered an inducement for good workmen, although journeymen masons who are engaged on buildings at present progressing in this city receive from \$6 to \$7 per day, and other mechanics a proportion.

It would be doubly beneficial, by relieving the Copper-ore from a vast amount of labor, and enabling the opportunity of sending the fine Dredge to a present operation of the world kind. It is not a matter of course that the interest of taxpayers and large owners, who require the introduction of steam fire engines, and the organization of a steam fire department, to be paid and uniformed. The present system is the parent and chief source of our American mining law, which characterizes our American mining law, and is universally recognized by foreigners. It encourages idleness, robbery, and reckless or wanton injury to property, and is a source of constant and increasing evil.

It is a political power, across the members from justice, sets the Courts at defiance, and seeks to free itself from all control. In this city the Department is actually independent of the City Government and beyond its control, being organized under a special act of the Legislature passed three years ago. The convention of the law has been lately held during the last few weeks, in a case where the Court had disbarred two companies for lawlessness and refusal to obey or recognize the Court for a year, and the Court decided to give the law to the Board of Delegates (composed of members of the P. & S. Company) and exclusive power to regulate the Department.

The prospects of this State are highly encouraging. It is so rich in gold, and the gold is so abundant, that it is not only a source of wealth, but a source of power. The gold is so abundant, that it is not only a source of wealth, but a source of power.

With an opinion like the immigration would soon be doubled by the Indians, and a revival of Western immigration is constantly looked for year or next. This is the country for poor men and their families to go to, and to find, in the gold fields, a new and abundant source of wealth, and all the good things of life in profusion. Strawberries abound six months in the year, while peaches, melons, grapes and golden pines, with other fruits, are cheap, plenty and delicious.

THE FRASER MANIA AND ITS INFLUENCE ON CALIFORNIA. From Our Own Correspondent. SAN FRANCISCO, July 5, 1858.

The Fraser fever rages furiously. Did I say "fever"? I should have said "mania." Hundreds of miners come down from Sacramento and Stockton every day. And there is no statement, but rather an increase in the furious flood. Not since '51 has the city been so full. The hotels are crowded; the dealers in hardware, clothing and provisions, and the owners of ocean steamers are making their fortunes. The river steamers and the interior stages have raised their prices, and though extraordinary boats and stages are running, they still cannot carry all who would come. In one day 28 stages and wagons, loaded down with emigrants for New Caledonia, came into Stockton. All the stages running to Sacramento come in every day filled up with Fraser-fever fever.

Most of the emigrants, so far, have been miners, and every large mining camp has lost a considerable portion of its population.

The Democratic of the 27th inst. says: "Whole camps in the city are almost entirely composed of gold diggers, and all are now offered for a hundred. Diggings that are paying an ounce a day are to be bought for \$100, or whatever sum may be offered."

The North San Juan Star of the same date says: "We heard of one claim yesterday, which, two months ago, was sold for \$2,000, for an offer of \$100, and the owner goes about begging for an offer—a claim which is worth more now than it ever was before. But this is only one of the many instances we hear of in this vicinity as well as elsewhere."

I could give you a multitude of such extracts, but these are enough to apply to be seen, and to convince you of the mining districts, and about many of them the unclaimed cooking utensils and mining tools. The exodus of the white miners is led upon by the Chinamen, of whom 2,000 have arrived within the last month, as particularly fortunate for them, for they go right into possession of the deserted cabins, claims and tools. Of the Indians, the Columbia correspondent of The Alta writes as follows:

I am informed as a matter of fact, that the Indian country, having been told that the whites were going away, came into town the other day, and agreed how they would divide the brick buildings among themselves after the pale faces should leave; and other Indians went into houses and made a similar decision there. They left the wooden buildings out, not wanting them.

A correspondent of The Alta, writing from Valcetto says: "Amidst claims paying from \$5 to \$10 per day are selling at from \$100 to \$175 a piece by those infatuated with the Fraser-River fever."

It is impossible to know how many of her inhabitants California will lose in this stupor, or what is to be its ultimate influence on her welfare. The total number of votes to be cast at the general election in the first week of September will probably not exceed 50,000, whereas it was about 100,000 last year. The same correspondent, from whom I took the above, thinks that 100,000 miners will leave California during this month, and that each costs only about \$1,000 votes.

Out of thirty policemen in this city, seven have gone, and 200 of 1,650 firemen.

Wages have risen considerably throughout the State. Sailors are getting \$75 per month, and men servants on steamboats are getting the same price. The firm on ocean steamers got \$150.

The price of real estate in the towns has fallen, particularly in the mining districts, where the depreciation is as much as twenty-five and fifty per cent. Sacramento, Marysville and Stockton are suffering severely. All their trade is killed. They are at the heads of steamboat navigation, whence extensive mines are supplied. But now there is no demand; there are more goods in the mines than coming back to this city. The enormous sign "Fraser" is being erected in all the towns, but particularly so in Sacramento and San Francisco; for although this city has suffered less by the mania than any other place, and although many classes of business have been rendered exceedingly profitable here by it, yet other trades have been ruined. He who deals in goods needed by miners going to a new country is in a fair way to make a fortune; he who does not has a dull prospect before him, unless he goes with the tide, and this many are compelled to do who would be glad to remain if they could do any business in California. The boarding-houses, keepers, the merchants and the rum-sellers of the interior are compelled to shut up and follow their customers to the land of promise.

The ocean steamers now engaged in the passenger trade between this city and Victoria are as follows, with their tonnage:

Table listing steamship companies and their tonnage, such as 'Oregon', 'Pacific', 'Sagehen', etc.

They always go away full, and the steamer Northern is being fitted up for the same trade. In addition to these steamers, 22 sailing vessels have gone up to Victoria and Bellingham Bay during the last three months, and not one of them has returned. The total number of passengers who have left here for Victoria and Bellingham during the last two weeks, as reported on the Custom-House books, is 5,000, against 3,500 from the 1st of April to the 20th June, making a total of 10,600. As I said, however, in my last letter, these custom-house figures are incomplete; the total number of departures is at least one-half greater than here stated. The number of passengers who have come down from Victoria during the fortnight, is reported on the same Custom-House books, and the correct number is probably about 100. The list of departures during the fortnight is as follows:

Table listing passengers by company and destination, such as 'No. Passengers', 'Oregon', 'Pacific', etc.

It is estimated that more than half of the heavy outstanding debt of the city originated in street contracts, many of which were planned merely to draw money from the Treasury, without executing any work at all.

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Little work can be done. We have many letters from miners; most of them are idle; some are out of money and would like to go to some place where they might get employment; a few are at work, making \$8 and \$10 per day, and a very few are making very large wages. J. W. Mandeville, United States Surveyor-General of this State, has received a letter from an old friend who writes from the mouth of Thompson's River, that he dug \$700 the first day he worked there. Everybody on Fraser River and about Puget Sound is full of confidence in the unsurpassed richness of the country in gold. This confidence is not only proved by the unanimous testimony of the letter-writers and those who have come down from the mines, but by the high prices of property in Victoria, and by the small number of persons who have returned to their homes. The water in Fraser River has fallen four feet, and in a couple of weeks we shall begin to hear from the miners who have been spending the summer on the upper part of Fraser River.

The heavy system adopted by Gov. Douglas will probably be a serious difficulty with the miners. The mineral license certifies that the miner may dig on any land in the Fraser-Columbia (Thompson) River district "that may be assigned to him" by some authorized person; and that the extent of a claim shall be 12 feet square to a man. There are already too many American miners in the country to submit to have claims "assigned" to them, or to consent that their claims shall be limited to the ridiculously small size of 12 feet square.

The total amount of dust which has arrived here is only about \$25,000, and it is not plenty at Victoria. Rumor says the Hudson's Bay Company has a large amount of it, but of this we do not know. The agents of the Company there have put up large stocks of goods and provisions here, but have paid by drafts on London. It is said they will make a large shipment of dust next week; and it is also said they have shipped considerable quantities of dust to England by sailing vessels.

Victoria has been gaining strength greatly during the fortnight, and no doubt at all remains that the British and Schoune must remain insignificant places in comparison. The permanent supremacy of Victoria is secure, unless a rival should start up on the banks of Fraser River. This is a mere possibility, the stream being navigable for vessels of the largest class, and Victoria being forty miles distant from its mouth. However, the entrance to the river is difficult. A large number of persons have gone to Victoria to become permanent residents, and considerable amounts of capital have been invested in town lots and land in the vicinity. Lots are rapidly rising in value; the best, 60 by 120 feet in size being worth \$8,000. A sale was made a couple of weeks since of remote lots at \$120 a piece, and the house where the sale was to be made, was surrounded by a time crowd at 7 o'clock a. m., two hours before the time fixed for the sale, and finally, after an order line and queue position, and a wait every man might have a fifty-pound note, and a receipt given for the money, the purchaser being told that they should select the location of their lots afterward, according to the order of the payments. Many of these receipts were sold the same day at double and triple the bargain cost. A friend of mine writes me that he was bargaining on the 25th inst. for a lot, which was offered to him in the morning for \$300. He said he would take time till evening to consider about it. He went to take it in the evening and was told it had been sold for \$8-00.

There are some 150 houses in the place, nearly half of which are new. Several cargoes of lumber have arrived, and a semi-weekly newspaper, styled the Victoria Gazette, has been established by Americans. Gov. Douglas is using all his authority, and going considerably beyond it, in his efforts to build up his town, and the captain of the British war steamer Satellite backs him up. The steamer Surprise left Victoria on one of the trips for Fort Yale about two weeks ago with several hundred miners, among whom were seventy-five that refused to purchase licenses. Word was sent to the Satellite; she stopped the Surprise at sea, and sent a squad of marines with orders to arrest and take aboard all the passengers, all property and all the cargo, and to demand to pay for licenses. There was some blistering, but the bull-dogs of the Satellite had a disagreeable look, and the defiant individuals paid for their papers. The Surprise draws six feet of water, and will probably not be able to continue running to Fort Yale more than a couple of weeks longer. The steamer Sea Bird, which went up to Fort Hope, got about ten miles below that fort, and is supposed to be permanently beached until the high water shall float her off next Spring. Two stern-wheel boats are being built to run on the river during low water, one in this city and one at Fort Ludlow, in Washington Territory. The one building here will be shipped in pieces to Victoria, and put together there.

Flour is worth \$60 a barrel at Fort Yale, \$40 in Whittow, \$28 in Saco and \$14 here. It will not be long before the flour will be made to suit the local market, but the miners' staples of flour, salt pork and beans will probably continue high. It will be a long time before fresh beef and vegetables can be obtained in Fraser Valley. The wheat crop in this State gave promise a month ago of being very good, but many fields have been struck by frost and the yield is only tolerable. The crop in Washington and Oregon Territories is said to be large.

Only 1,000 miners' licenses had been issued in Victoria previous to the 25th of June, though it was supposed that not less than 4,900 miners had ascended the rivers.

The American towns attempting to rival Victoria are making little progress. There has been so much lying about the trail to be opened from Whittow to the mines that nobody here has any faith in the trail, or the town. The trail is only to be used for pack mules; the lumber and underwood are to be cut for a distance of 60 miles from the bay that men have to cut every foot of the way. Parties have started out from Stellacoom and Seattle in Washington Territory to cross the Cascade Mountains to the Naches and Snoqualmie passes, and then north to the Fraser River valley; but we have no report yet of their progress.

The U. S. light-house steamer Shubrick has gone to Puget Sound, and the sloop-of-war St. Marys is being fitted up at the Navy Yard to follow her. We want more men-of-war on our coast.

Markets. SAN FRANCISCO, Tuesday Evening, July 1, 1858. Six Dollars per bushel, 1858; 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000.

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