

Corvallis, Jan. 17, 1879.

W. B. CARTER, EDITOR

THE ICE BLOCKADE AGAIN.

For many years the Corvallis GAZETTE has been laboring with very honorable zeal for a railroad from the upper portion of Willamette valley to Yaquina bay.

The influence of the Oregonian upon any enterprise or undertaking in this State, as well as upon the great political, moral or social questions of the day, are too potent to be lightly esteemed and we are glad to acknowledge from such a powerful ally even a quasi friendship toward our Yaquina railroad, Yaquina harbor, or Cape Foulweather breakwater.

Surely Portland would have nothing to lose by communication with California, free from ice-blockades and sand bars. The commerce of the State could not lose anything, while travelers would hail, with delight, a new line of travel between Portland and San Francisco from twelve to twenty-four hours shorter, and free from dangerous bars, ice-blockades, hogs-backs and sand bars.

It is not high time that the farmers of Oregon—especially of the Willamette valley—were taking this matter under serious consideration, for the purpose of solving the problem as to whether or not there is a remedy for these evils? We contend there is an effectual remedy within easy grasp.

Last summer a preliminary survey was made, by Col. Habersham, of Cape Foulweather, for the purpose of ascertaining its practicability as a harbor of refuge. We have not seen an official report of that survey, but are credibly informed, by gentlemen who had the ear of the Civil Engineer, that it is a most favorable location for a harbor of refuge or breakwater, and that its cost would be very small, in comparison to the benefits to be derived.

STEARNS DAYTON—First Boat.—Capt. Chas. Kellogg went down to St. Helens yesterday with the steamer Dayton and returned last evening. He reports the river entirely free from ice from this city to St. Helens. The Dayton left here in the forenoon and went by way of the slough. There was no ice in the slough and none in the Columbia as far as could be seen up and down.

THE BRITISH SHIP ALLEGIANCE GETS AROUND AT THE MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA—TUGS GOSE TO HER ASSISTANCE.

STANDSTILL.—We are indebted to Col. J. R. Farish for the following dispatch from Messrs. Trenchard & Upham, of Astoria, of date Jan. 10th.

INSANITY DODGE.—Troy Dye, of Tullis' murder notoriety, in Sacramento, Cal., is now on trial. His counsel is trying the insanity dodge—but it will scarcely save the neck of a public officer, whose crimes are so apparent. The murder was committed last summer, and already justice has been too long deferred.

A fire in Chicago on the 11th inst., destroyed the Honore block, in which was the post office, Gen. Sheridan's headquarters, and the Chicago & Alton railroad office.

ON THE SANDS.

BRITISH SHIP ALLEGIANCE ON THE SANDS AT COLUMBIA RIVER BAR.

And again it becomes our duty to chronicle misfortune on the Columbia River bar, however much we regret it. Within the past 12 months the bar has been increased alarmingly, and all because ship masters desire their knowledge of navigation sufficient to sail them in over it without the aid of a tug.

We "regret," as much as our contemporaries in Portland, to chronicle the fact that "disasters on the Columbia river bar have increased alarmingly." There are various reasons why we "regret" these disasters, aside from the great detriment to the commerce of the State by preventing ship-owners from coming to the Columbia bar.

Now, for a few practical thoughts, as suggested by the above facts. It is acknowledged that the Willamette valley is the great grain producing section of Oregon, and that the farmers of the Willamette valley are, and have been, for years, footing enormous shipping bills.

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MORE NARROW GAUGE R. R.

While the Willamette valley seems all alive on the narrow gauge railroad question, Southern Oregon is not asleep. On the 4th inst., an enthusiastic mass meeting was held at Jacksonville to discuss the project of building a narrow gauge road from Rogue River valley to tide-water at or near Ellensburg, Curry County, Oregon.

A committee was appointed to prepare a subscription paper to be presented to the citizens of Jackson county for contributions towards defraying the expense of a preliminary survey of the proposed road. Over \$500 were raised, in a few minutes, C. C. Beckman heading the subscription with \$100. Col. Ross, and others, following with \$50 each, while subscriptions ranged from five dollars up.

ENCOURAGE OPPOSITION BOATS.

EDITOR GAZETTE:—Please find enclosed money order, \$2.50, for renewal of my subscription to the GAZETTE. I noticed an item in a late number of the GAZETTE, to the effect that the steamer S. T. Church was a total loss. This is a mistake.

The question of a change in the school book series is one which is exciting no little comment at the present time, and to settle which, will take some little time; and quietude will reign supreme in educational circles. The State Board of Education is fairly flooded with sample series from various publishing houses in the country, each of whom are reaching after the golden prize, and are peculiarly desirous of having their particular series adopted, as therein lies a small fortune.

It is true that the farmers' boats have had bad luck, this fall. But the same misfortunes are liable to happen to any boats on the Upper Willamette. Nearly all the stock-holders in the farmers' boats have received their money back in low freights. Then where is the swindle? Suppose the farmers' boats, and the A. A. McCully, were off the river, how long would the farmers of Benton county enjoy the present low freight tariffs? The only way to have low freights continue on the Upper Willamette, is for the farmers to stand by the opposition boats.

OUTLET TO THE SEA.

The project of rendering Rogue river navigable, is pronounced impracticable, and therefore Southern Oregon fails to have an outlet to the sea, as fondly hoped by that means. We regret that this stream is not navigable, as there is no danger of our State having too many outlets to the sea. This is another reason why Yaquina Bay should receive Congressional appropriation. With comparatively small outlay, in removing the soft rock at the entrance, it would afford a most excellent harbor.

Engineer Earstreck is said to be of the opinion that Rogue river cannot be rendered navigable by the expenditure of any sum of money Congress may see fit to appropriate for the purpose. His recent experience in this, and he will report accordingly. This fact is to be deplored, as it cuts off one hope Southern Oregon may have entertained for an outlet to the sea.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

SALLEM, Jan. 13, 1879. EDITOR GAZETTE:—I suppose you will expect a letter this week, whether school keeps or not, and whether anything of interest has transpired in our midst since I wrote you last, or not. The insatiable and uncontrollable appetite of the average copy fender must be appeased and a somewhat varied experience in newspaperdom has taught me what hungry chaps they are.

Matters have been quiet in Salem during the week under review, the presence of the Supreme Court alone relieving the monotony of life in the "city of churches." No very important business, of either public or local interest, has yet been disposed of, although the attendance of attorneys is unusually large.

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The following notaries public have been appointed during the past week: W. C. Griswold, Salem; O. F. Paxton, Ralph M. Dement, Charles A. Petrain, and Ira O. Shattuck, Portland; Alex. Meacham, Astoria, and J. W. Blackwell, Highland, J. T. Turner, Washington, D. C., commissioner of deeds for Oregon. Geo. H. Reed, Col.; A. J. Lawrence, Liout. Col.; J. W. Norville, Major; H. N. Crapper, Assistant Surgeon; E. C. Lindsley and J. H. Hutchinson, Captains; H. H. Leonard and John Davis, 1st Lieuts.; Robert Shinn and James R. Haines, 2d Lieuts. of regiments and companies recently organized in Union and Unatilla counties.

Bliss D. Riekey, of this city, has, through the courtesy of Senator Mitchell received the appointment of mail agent between Portland and The Dalles. Bliss is a good fellow, and a host of friends will be rejoiced to hear of his success.

The motion made for a new trial in the matter of the United States vs. W. C. Griswold, of this city, having been denied, the defendant, on Saturday last, gave himself into custody to release his sureties. A. Bush, Esq., and John F. Miller, Esq., of this city. He was, we learn, turned over to B. L. Norden, sheriff of Multnomah county, and was, at last accounts, confined in the county jail. He will probably remain in nominal confinement for a period of thirty days, when he can make oath of his inability to pay the \$35,000 judgment against him, which will release his sureties and restore him to liberty. He has many friends in this city who regret, most sincerely, the misfortunes that apparently overwhelm him at the present time.

Protection Lodge No. 2, A. O. U. W., has just installed the following officers for the ensuing term: D. S. Green, P. M. W.; A. L. Stinson, M. W.; John Holman, G. F.; M. G. Harbord, O.; J. S. Coulter, Recor.; J. Gray, Financier; J. B. Parker, G.; Thomas H. Cann, Recorder; J. S. Moore, I. W.; B. S. Rowland, O. W. The members of Olive Lodge No. 18, I. O. O. F., will celebrate the anniversary of their organization to-morrow evening by a public installation, etc., etc., which latter expression may be said to embrace a great deal, including an address by Past Grand Representative Norcross, of California, who has consented to be present. Anniversary Lodge No. 13, I. O. O. F., installed their officers last Wednesday evening, M. L. Chamberlain, D. D. G. M., officiating; E. L. Bristow, N. G.; E. W. Hillenbrand, V. G.; Ira Erb, R. S.; Robert Day, P. S.; James Coffee, Treasurer. Highland Lodge No. 26, I. O. O. F., located at Eola, Polk county, filed articles of incorporation on Thursday last, Thomas Pearce, William Waters and Thomas Jordan incorporators.

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The Chemeketa hotel continues to lead the van of hotels in the State. Salem secured an enterprising citizen and a thorough-going business man, combined with a real gentleman, when F. S. Matthews, the genial proprietor thereof, consented to assume control of it and, with hundreds of others, unite in hoping he may "live long and prosper."

The case of Smith vs. Harris, from Benton county, is now on trial; appellant is represented by Col. Kellogg and the respondent by R. S. Stralman and Burnett. The Court on yesterday morning announced the opinion in the case of Dodge vs. Marden & Knott, from Jackson county. The opinion was delivered by Judge Boise in that clear and concise manner peculiar to him, and was an exhaustive review of the question presented by the appeal; holding that mining ditches were expressly excepted from the operation of the homestead and pre-emption law by act of Congress of 1866; that they were clothed by the act of the Legislature of 1870 with the character of real property, and that non-usur alone was not sufficient to establish abandonment, unless continuing for 20 years; but that the fact of abandonment must be proved by the intention and acts of the owner. The judgment of the Circuit Court was affirmed.

The following complimentary, but well merited tribute to a faithful public servant, is found in the Roseburg Independent of January 10th, which we most heartily endorse: Senator Mitchell has introduced several bills lately in the Senate for the benefit of the State. A preamble to a bill for opening the Columbia river to free navigation, provides for an appropriation of \$200,000 to construct a broad gauge railroad across the Cascade ranges. Other bills are for an appropriation of \$100,000 for the establishment of a permanent military post at Baker City, and for the relief of parties in Eastern Oregon, whose property was destroyed by Indians.

White Owl and Quit-a-tumps Executed at Wenden for the Murder of George Coggan. THEY CONFESS THEIR GUILT, BUT REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE JUSTICE OF THEIR FATE—HANGING PASSES OFF WITHOUT ANY DISTURBANCE FROM INDIANS.

WATCH MEETING.—The watch meeting at the Methodist church on Tuesday night was a most interesting one. The church was well filled by 9 o'clock, when the services were opened by Rev. Coffman, who gave a short but timely sermon upon "Time—Its Uses and Objects," which was listened to with true Christian fervor, and died in the triumph of living faith. Alas! with his expiring breath, he praised the Lord, and exhorted his wife, children, and attending friends, to prepare to meet him in heaven. To him the grave had no terrors, and he could triumphantly say: "O, death where is thy sting? And where is thy victory, boasting grave?" Deceased was an honored and respected citizen; fond and devoted husband; kind and affectionate father, and leaves a wife, three children, and a large circle of friends to mourn their loss—which is his eternal gain.

DECEASED.—Nancy Jane Lewis, Oct. 11, 1838. Moved to Morgan county, Missouri, in 1841, and emigrated to Oregon in 1845, where he resided till his decease. Was a resident of Corvallis for 24 years, where he lived on honorable, upright life, loved and respected by all who knew him. He united with the Christian Church in 1841, (his now grief-stricken companion being a member of the same church), and continued a faithful, consistent member until removed, by death, to the Church triumphant. He had been an invalid for nearly thirty years—and literally wasted away by the slow process of disease and pain—and yet he never murmured or complained, but bore his sore afflictions with true Christian fortitude, and died in the triumph of living faith. Alas! with his expiring breath, he praised the Lord, and exhorted his wife, children, and attending friends, to prepare to meet him in heaven. To him the grave had no terrors, and he could triumphantly say: "O, death where is thy sting? And where is thy victory, boasting grave?" Deceased was an honored and respected citizen; fond and devoted husband; kind and affectionate father, and leaves a wife, three children, and a large circle of friends to mourn their loss—which is his eternal gain.

TELEGRAPHIC.

COMPILED FROM THE DAILY OREGONIAN.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 10.—The legislature met at noon to-day, and Governor Culbertson's message was delivered. It designates the resumption of apportionment as one of the grandest achievements in the financial history of the nation, and as an evidence of wise policy and the enormous resources of the country.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 10.—A heavy snow storm visited Southern Ohio yesterday, extending as far south as Richmond in Kentucky, delaying traffic on all roads in that region. There are some instances stopping trains entirely. At Marysville snow is 16 inches deep and drifting to a depth of five feet. It is the heaviest storm for 20 years. Farmers apprehend the loss of stock.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Delicate Cannon to-day, referring to the recent supreme court decision, admitted the right of Congress to legislate against polygamy, but said that his people had more to fear from persecution than from prosecution under the act of 1862. He feared that enemies of the Mormon people would sustain the same prosecution for unlawful collaboration against parties who would otherwise escape under a plea of the statute of limitations. Mormons would be cravens and profligates if they yielded their religious principles to the dictates of the supreme court.

OMAHA, Jan. 10.—A dispatch received by General Crook this morning says that there were thirty Cheyennes killed last night at the outbreak at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and that fifty prisoners have been recaptured from among fugitives. Captain Wessels, with five companies, is in pursuit. There were 150 prisoners confined in the main building, from which all but 30 defiantly refused to be removed preparatory to departure for the Indian territory. When they camped from the building, they were wounded four soldiers and killed one. They were armed with clubs, which they procured by tearing up the flooring, and had good possession of a few revolvers.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—The president has issued an order setting apart a tract on Salt river, Arizona, as a reservation for the Pimas and Maricopas.

A long and important caucus was held by Republican senators this afternoon devoted to the discussion made by Edmunds, that a committee should be appointed to draw a resolution expressing the approval of the senate to specie payments, and a determination to preserve the present currency system untouched and unchanged. It was represented in caucus that the law fixing the date for resumption of specie payments, in the senate, and now that a resolution has been made upon the subject. A committee composed of Edmunds and four other senators was appointed to draft the resolution which will, it is understood, express the approval of national banks, and is certain to lead to an extended debate.

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—The Times' Fort Robinson correspondent gives the following description of the scenes attending the hunting of escaped Indians, who were caught at night. Having got up with the guard, who were only fifty yards behind the retreating savages, the entire command poured volley after volley into the ranks of the fugitives, with fatal results, killing over twenty and wounding as many more before the savages succeeded in gaining the hills. At this point Maj. Yroom, commanding companies A, E, F and I, of 3d Cavalry, who were camped at the old camp occupied by the 4th Cavalry a year ago, on hearing the firing suspected the cause and his troops were soon after in the saddle and galloping in the direction where the flash of carbines and the shouts of the troops were seen and heard, among the hills. At 12:15 A. M. the work of carrying the dead and wounded to the camp was commenced. All the bucks found were dead, and about twenty squaws and papooses were picked up and ordered to the post. On an examination of the bodies of the children by Surgeons Moseley and Pettis several were found to have been dangerously wounded. Many had limbs badly frozen; the entire command poured volley after volley into the ranks of the fugitives, with fatal results, killing over twenty and wounding as many more before the savages succeeded in gaining the hills. At this point Maj. Yroom, commanding companies A, E, F and I, of 3d Cavalry, who were camped at the old camp occupied by the 4th Cavalry a year ago, on hearing the firing suspected the cause and his troops were soon after in the saddle and galloping in the direction where the flash of carbines and the shouts of the troops were seen and heard, among the hills. At 12:15 A. M. the work of carrying the dead and wounded to the camp was commenced. 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