

Decision of the Tax Case.

At the special term of the District Court, held in this place, beginning last Monday, the court decided the case of Thurston County vs. the Thurston County Railroad Construction Co. The company refused to pay the taxes because of the arbitrary, unjust and illegal proceedings of the Assessor and the County Commissioners in assessing the property and in fixing the amount of taxes to be paid. The company returned no assessment to the Assessor. The property was returned by that officer valued at \$71,000. The Commissioners refused to make any reduction in the assessment, on the ground that the application was made too late. It was urged that when the Northern Pacific Railroad Co. asked for a reduction of taxes, the Commissioners seemed to have no doubt of their authority to act and actually settled five years' taxes for three per cent. of the gross earnings of the road for 1879, and that, guided by this precedent, a reduction should be made, so that the assessment of the company might correspond somewhat with the market value of the property. The Commissioners, however, refused to make any change in the assessment, although they acknowledged it was too high.

At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Judson was employed to take such steps as he might deem advisable to prevent the Treasurer from selling the property of the company to pay the tax so assessed. He found on examination of the assessment roll that it had not been authenticated or signed by the Assessor, as required by the express provisions of Sec. 23 of the revenue law of 1877. This defect Mr. Judson pointed out to the Treasurer and the Auditor, and he stated to those gentlemen at the time that his interests in the county as a citizen and tax-payer were such that he would with great reluctance raise a question as to the validity of the assessment before the courts, as in his judgment the whole was void, and that many, taking advantage of the defect, would pay no taxes and the county be greatly injured thereby. It was then agreed, between the Auditor and the attorney for the company, that the former should call the Commissioners together, with a view of effecting some compromise, while the latter should have a meeting of the Directors of the company and urge the propriety of paying a fair and just tax.

In pursuance of this arrangement, the Commissioners and Directors met, and the latter instructed their attorney to tender the county three and one-half per cent. of the gross earnings of the road in lieu of taxes. The proposition was made in writing, with the intimation that the assessment was probably void and in case of litigation the county would suffer. The Commissioners rejected the proposition and the Treasurer, acting under express instructions, sold the property of the company for delinquent taxes, the county being the purchaser. At the last term of the court, the county brought an action to recover possession of the property.

Mr. Bloomfield, representing the county, offered in evidence the assessment roll, to which Mr. Judson objected, on the ground, among others, that the assessment roll was void, because the Assessor had not signed the same.

Judge Hoyt, in deciding the case, passed only on one point or objection made. He held that the failure of the Assessor to sign the roll, made the assessment and all subsequent proceedings, null and void, and that the company have judgment against the county for costs.

ACCORDING to the Chicago Railway Review, a company of American capitalists are negotiating with the Northern Pacific Railroad Company for the purchase of 100,000 acres of land in Washington Territory. It is said that as soon as title is acquired by the purchasers, they intend to sink artesian wells on every section upon which there is not a sufficient natural supply of water.

Our Railroad Prospects.

The extraordinary activity in railroad building that prevailed the past season and which promises such magnificent results in the near future, is doubtless owing to a concentration of capital for the purpose of evading competition. This insures immense profits, and so long as the dividends are satisfactory there is little prospect of a disagreement that will bring about low rates, a matter in which the people are ostensibly the more interested. It is probably best that the situation should be as it is, for a time at least, until the great lines so long projected are built, when a decline of foreign exports, which have been excessive the past few years, will gradually bring about a close competition and result in effort to secure the largest traffic, when it will be almost impossible to maintain a tariff fixed when the business far exceeded the carrying capacity of the roads. The partial crop failures in Europe the past three years, have at least this beneficial effect, and the advanced prices of breadstuffs has served to compensate in some degree for the high rates of transportation.

The Northern Pacific feels the reviving influence of this activity, and gives hope of its entire completion within two years. Passing through exceedingly large tracts of fertile land, it will be one of the most profitable roads in the country. We maintain that the prosperity of this company is the main hope of our Territory for near and rapid development. It will not only bring a large population, but stimulate the building of other lines to share the advantages possessed by such transcontinental lines as have a terminus on Puget Sound, immeasurably the best shipping point on the Pacific Coast.

Seattle is feeling the effect of this concentration of capital in an eminent degree. The purchase of the Seattle and Walla-walla Railroad a few weeks ago, has been supplemented by active operations to extend it at the earliest possible date to the objective point in Eastern Washington. The Oregon Improvement Company, a corporation heavily backed by Eastern capital, have it is announced, appropriated \$5,000,000, to complete the road to Walla-walla, and extend branches to the Cedar and Carbon river coal mines, and to Wilkeson, connecting with the Northern Pacific for direct railroad communication with Portland. The new company is known as the Columbia and Puget Sound Railroad Co. and is incorporated under the laws of the Territory. The officers are: T. F. Oakes, President; J. N. Dolph, Vice President; Jas. Simon, Secretary and R. Romaine Treasurer. The Resident Directors are B. Gatzert, A. A. Denny and R. Romaine. It is announced that work will begin early in the Spring.

There are likewise vague whispers of another project, with adequate financial backing, to build a road connecting Eastern Washington nearer the head of the Sound. While in this, of course, we feel a more direct interest, still we rejoice in the prospects of Tacoma and Seattle. The whole Sound will be greatly benefitted by the completion of either or both of these lines, and no local jealousy should impel anybody to ignore the general prosperity which will result from them.

ASHORE AND Afloat.—The bark Lizzie Marshal, which sailed from Port Blakely on the morning of Thanksgiving day, lumber laden, went ashore in Mutiny Bay, Whidby's Island, Saturday night. A part of the deck load had to be thrown overboard before she got off. She was towed to Port Townsend, with ten feet of water in her hold. As she has been considerably strained, she will probably return to Port Blakely for repairs before proceeding on her voyage.

THE remains of an aged wood-chopper named Daniel O'Keefe, were found in his cabin near Portland, a few days ago. He lived alone and had evidently been dead several days when the remains were discovered, which had been almost literally eaten up by rats.

The death of Jaques Offenbach, the celebrated composer of operabouffes, occurred recently in Paris.

Honest Change.

The day of small change cannot be much longer delayed on the Pacific coast. Already some of the smaller coins have found their way into the retail trade of San Francisco, but further north the mythical "bit" or actual dime, is the lowest denomination of currency which business men will admit in daily transactions. This leads to considerable loss, which is almost always on the side of the purchaser. By adopting the fiction of placing the value of any commodity at a bit, for which a ten-cent piece will be readily received in exchange, if a quarter is tendered, a bit or dime is all that the buyer will receive back, while he actually pays fifty per cent. more than the price of the article. And so it runs through all the practical transactions of business. Three bits are thirty-five cents if you happen to have the exact change in your pocket, or forty cents if you do not. Five bits amount to sixty cents, under favorable conditions, or sixty-five under adverse circumstances; and while the merchant or trader places the money in the till with admirably complacency, the fleeced victim tries to look as if he doesn't care, or endeavors probably to be somewhat mollified by the electrotyped assurance, "It's a few cents over, but we'll make it right next time." The "next time," it has been observed, never comes. You may wait for "next" in a barber shop, with some degree of assurance that your patience will be rewarded—not so in a store. The balance is always on the wrong end of the beam, and thus it goes on from day to day, and year to year, without the slightest hope of escape, unless we can bring to our aid an adequate supply of the once despised, but now venerated, little pieceyone. Probably it is a low estimate to place the loss to each individual, who buys his supplies from the retail stores at ten cents per day; but this would aggregate \$3 per month, or \$36 for the 360 shopping days of a single year!

Nor is the pieceyone the only aid which low wages and hard times demand. The nickel should be welcomed and the copper cent restored to its sphere of usefulness. Many an article is sold for five cents, "in quantities of a "bit's" worth, simply because the cent is of such plebeian origin that the vender will not acknowledge it any more than he would a delegation of his wife's poor relations. The only place where they have an actual value is at the post-office, and even there they are treated with the same disrespect as were the colored race before the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment, and occupy a pasteboard box, where their dingy hue will not contaminate the brighter coin and it is an indisputable fact that they seldom enjoy the distinction of being placed behind a combination lock.

Let us reform all this. Let us remonetize the infinitesimal parts of our Daddy Dollar, and send them forth on a pilgrimage of usefulness upon the busy current of human events. As our business men have the best possible reason for not introducing the "nibble sixpence" let us, consumers, club together and send for a hat-full, fresh from the mint, and send them on the honorable mission of replenishing the empty pockets of the needy.

The Globe-Democrat gives this definition of "Stalwart," a term which came into general use in the late campaign:

"It means a man who abides by the decision of his party in convention assembled; who makes his fight for his favorite and accepts defeat within the party with a good grace; who believes that a Republican is better than a Democrat for any position whatever, and who stands by all the principles and traditions of Republicans, including the machine. The antithesis of the Stalwart is the Kicker.

The Kickers are known in this longitude as Bolters, and their special province seems to be to spring the traps which the Stalwarts set for unwary victims.

It seems that even the great Beecher cannot check the servile spirit of a portion of the American people which leads them to ape the manners of those accustomed to royalty. Grant is the idol of thousands of people eminently his superior in mental calibre, and this is one of the straws which indicates a decided current towards a monarchical form of Government. Let us hope that it will die out with the present generation.

We Must Count It Out.

BROTHER MURPHY:—Will you allow me to say in your paper that I think your review of my discourse on "Thanksgiving day is liable to do injustice to my views, with such of your readers as did not hear me. Would it not be fair to publish the sermon entire, and thus give your readers a chance to better appreciate your criticisms? I am quite as open to criticism from Republican as Democrats. And I know of no Republican paper that would endorse all my sentiments, and probably none of them will ask for the manuscript. I cheerfully offer it to you and if you will give it to the public entire I will thank you to review it at length and give me and all your readers the benefit of a more thorough sifting, asking in return only the privilege of responding through the same channel. I did not suppose I would offend my friends of either party, for I thought everybody knew that in discussing moral questions I run in no party groove.

In speaking of sin that is a reproach to my people, I spared neither Whigs or Democrats, Republicans or Greenbacks. I tried to hit them all, and show how the sins of all parties are a reproach to my people. I charged it upon Republicans that they had won by the skin of their teeth by reason of their trucking, time-serving spirit, and that they and the race and color belonged to them as well as Democrats. And in speaking of the Territories, I simply said that if the central power was a perfect, infallible power, it would be better to remain as we are than set up for ourselves. That if one man power were always infallible the people could not better it by Democratic rule. I did not assume that such is the case, and I assume to be a monarchist. With the text of the discourse before you I think you and your readers would regard it more dispassionately. If desired it is at your service.

Very Respectfully Yours,  
C. A. HUNTINGTON.

We would like to comply with the request had we space to publish both the sermon and the discussion likely to ensue from it; but we do not believe the "game worth the candle." We tendered the use of our columns to publish such extracts as relate especially to the points noted in our criticism, but Mr. Huntington seemed to think that justice would not be done him unless at least one-half the discourse appeared, and that half embracing but part of the statements to which we filed exceptions. The arrangement of "Copperheads" is not included in the manuscript furnished us, and that was one of the points on which we wished to enter the plea of "not guilty." His auditors will agree with us that his strictures of the Republican party were very mild, and despite the "truckling, time-serving spirit" manifested by them, the fact that they "won by the skin of their teeth," was made the occasion of his public thanksgiving.

It is believed by the Philadelphia Ledger that the scientists employed by the Government have usually given a full return for the money expended upon them and their labors, and if Prof. Riley has really found a means of putting an end to the ravages of the cotton worm he will have paid in a single season for a whole decade of accumulated salary. So many scientists of our day turn speculative philosophers, and confound the public mind at least as to what is known and what is simply conjectured, that science, so far as they represent it, is brought into disrepute; but the labors of real observers and experimentalists continue to be of immeasurable value everywhere and in all kinds of occupations. The economic work of topographical and geological surveyors, of entomologists and meteorologists, cannot be done effectively by private institutions or by individuals. The Government must attend to it for the general good, and there is no danger of giving it too much aid. The discovery of a means of stopping the ravages of a single pest, like the grasshopper, or the army of cotton worm, or the potato beetle, is worth more than has been expended by the Government on purely scientific labors since its organization.

We don't think Mr. Garfield raised himself very much in the estimation of sensible people, by his merciless snubbing of the abolition of equal-boat men who wanted on him a few days ago. It matters but little whether their action was in good taste or not, it evidently originated in a spirit of sincere friendship, which it was the act of a churl to ignore. Working men will be apt to view it from a different standpoint than that assumed by the "idiot" who made up the Associate Press report.

The Eastern news being of unusual interest this week, we devote more than the usual space to it, trenching somewhat upon the editorial page.

Sixty per cent. of the cases of insanity occurring in France, are, according to a physician of that country, caused by the use of absinthe.

Mere Mention.

Cold weather, ther. 27 above 0. The steamer *Chelalis* visited our harbor Monday.

The Unitarians held a Sociable Wednesday evening.

The Board of Trade hold a meeting at their rooms, at half-past seven, this evening.

Evidences of the Christmas season are beginning to obtrude themselves upon the sight.

There will be divine service in the M. E. Church on next Sunday, morning and evening.

The Blue Ribbon League is making preparations to celebrate its second anniversary.

The Methodist Sunday School are making preparations for holding a festival Christmas eve.

The present weather reminds us very forcibly of the beginning of the snow-laden last Winter.

The train came in late Tuesday evening, in consequence of a detention on the North Pacific.

Messrs. Lundberg, do not have a few words to say to some of their customers, in another column.

December made its appearance with snow, ice and frosters with it. Let us hope that it is not a forerunner of a severe Winter.

Postal Agent Simpson visited this place Friday, remaining till Monday morning, when he departed for the lower part of the Sound.

The Farmers meet at 3 o'clock, Sunday afternoon, instead of half-past 3, as heretofore. The Monthly evening session closed at 7 o'clock.

Gov. Newell will, by invitation, address the meeting of Odd Fellows, at their regular meeting Monday evening. A full attendance of the membership is desired.

The demand for boys' sleds has been unprecedented since the fall of snow, Thursday morning. Mr. Titus has found constant employment in building them to order.

Those in search of bargains will miss it if they fail to read Mr. Rosenthal's announcement of "Closing out sale," on the eighth page of this issue. He means what he says.

The pupils of East Olympia Academy propose holding a Reception on the evening of Friday, the 10th inst., the proceeds of which are to be applied to the purchase of an organ.

The subject of discourse in the Congregational church, next Sunday morning, will be, "Who is my neighbor?" a supplement to the discourse on Thanksgiving day. Everybody is invited to be present.

We understand there is some question as to the legality of the assessment roll of the current year. If it is defective, the sooner it is known the better. Taxes should be paid by all the property owners or by none.

The railroad case, to which reference is made in this issue, occupied much of the time of the special term of the District Court. The only other important case, Shafer vs. Hayden, was continued till Jan. 4th, to which time Court has adjourned.

A petition is in circulation praying the County Commissioners to withhold the payment of interest on the railroad bonds, and we understand it has received nearly two hundred signatures. It will not be likely to accomplish the desired result.

The Supreme Court of the Territory, this week, affirmed the decision of the Court below, in the case of Maynard vs. Valentine, which involves the legality of Legislative divorces. An appeal has been taken to the U. S. Supreme Court, and we will soon have the question settled by the highest judicial tribunal in the country.

We received a call Wednesday from Mr. McPherson, President of the Washington Colony, a portion of which, 55 in number, are now camped on the Fair Grounds. They left Kansas on the 4th of May and arrived here Thanksgiving day. The whole colony consists of about 800 people, a portion of whom have concluded to Winter in Eastern Washington, and come to the Sound in the Spring. All these came by the primitive conveyance of ox-teams, but another detachment came by rail—about 50 in number—and have arrived at Seattle. If all the colonists are like those we have seen, we think "they will do."

LATE EASTERN NEWS.

Neck-and-Neck.—Chicago, Nov. 27.—The Tribune furnishes the following statement of majorities, taken from official returns, from every State in the Union on the late Presidential election: Garfield, 4,439,415; Hancock, 4,436,014; Weaver, 307,729; Dow, 9,644; scattering, 1,733; total, 9,192,595; Garfield's plurality over Hancock, 3,401.

The Ketchikan Murder Case.—San Francisco, Nov. 27.—The case of I. M. Kallcock for the murder of Charles De Young came up in the superior court to-day, when the accused changed his plea from "once in jeopardy" to not guilty, and prior acquittal on the same charge. It seems that when the first trial was abandoned on the ground of informality in the proceedings, entry of acquittal was made on the records, and it will now be claimed that the court cannot go behind that record.

The Northern Earthquake.—Victoria, B. C., Nov. 27.—The recent earthquake shocks in Alaska and the regions north of here in British Columbia were very violent. Immense glaciers were split from summit to base and great masses cast into valleys and creeks, completely filling them up.

Navigation on the Penobscot.—New York, Nov. 28.—On account of thaw and rains navigation has been resumed on the Penobscot river, Maine. The river closed the earliest since 1842. Boats were frozen in six inches of ice.

Indian Affairs.—Washington, Nov. 26.—The Indian Commissioners recommend that all of the lands including in the Malheur reservation be appraised and sold and the proceeds invested for the benefit of the Indians. These lands comprise nearly one million eight hundred thousand acres.

The condition of affairs at the Yakima agency where 3,900 Indians are collected, is reported to be highly gratifying. They are extensively engaged in agriculture and stock raising, cultivate eight thousand acres of land, and last year raised thirty-five thousand bushels of wheat, besides various other products, including 1,000 tons of hay; 3,300 of them now wear civilized dress. They have built a handsome church and a number of first-class farm houses, and less than 10 per cent. of their wants are now supplied by the government. Their complete civilization under the excellent management of their old agent, Friend Wilbur, is believed to be near at hand.

Attention is called to the fact that the treaty provisions providing for the support and civilization of the following tribes expired last June, viz., Walla-walla, Cayuse and Umatilla tribes in Oregon, and Dwanish, Makahs, Quinalts, Clallams and Yakimas, in Washington Territory.

The report says the present condition of these Indians renders it important that the aid and assistance heretofore extended be continued, and that early steps be taken for their permanent settlement upon lands in severalty, and for the sale of so much of their respective reservations as may not be required by them. Many of these tribes have made commendable progress in civilized pursuits, in the past few years and there is and uneasy feeling and great anxiety on the part of many of their leading chiefs to know what the policy of the Government will be toward them.

A Snobby Congregation.—New York, Nov. 29.—Gen. Grant and ex-Minister Romero, of Mexico, attended service to-day in Beecher's church in Brooklyn. The congregation became aware of the presence of the distinguished gentlemen and remained in their seats after benediction. Mr. Beecher informed the people that the services were ended and asked that they retire. There was yet no manifestation or disposition on the part of the congregation to leave before Grant or Romero. Mr. Beecher then said: "This house is for the worship of God, not of man," and appealed to the assembly to disperse. The seats being still retained, Grant and Romero left, quickly followed by the whole congregation.

Garfield Goes Back on his "Mud-sill" Com patriots.—Chicago, Nov. 27.—A Times Washington special on a cool reception by Garfield of the Tow-path club says: These blooming fresh water idiots had cards specially printed for the occasion with "First deckhand" etc., printed after each precious owner's name. One may imagine Gen. Garfield's feelings when he was called from his library by a servant with a dozen of these cards. The reception he gave his friends was absolutely glacial. He curtly nodded to them standing, and not asking them to sit down. One of the spokesmen feebly tried to say that he was glad to see that the Garfield canalboat had finally entered the last lock, when Garfield shut him off with such a stern look that the speaker choked in the middle of a word and almost strangled. Gradually it began to dawn on the callers that they were not pleasant companions, and they crept silently away, hoping as they went, that they had not intruded. A "first deck-