

The Weekly Enterprise.

Oregon City, Oregon:

Saturday, December 1st, 1866.

The Telegraph.

The telegraph is getting to be rather an odious concern, or rather the Press is beginning to look upon it with considerable odium. We long since learned to regard it as a square and fair nuisance, at least in this part of the country, and feel gratified to see that others of the editorial fraternity enjoy the same regard for it, in a measure. It is a fact that nearly all the dispatches transmitted over the wires for the associated press since the war, and very much of that transmitted during the war, was mere stuff. The S. F. Call says the telegraph is a lying institution. So it is very often. Last week we published the Oregonian's remarks upon the self same concern. Below we give what the Herald said on Wednesday:

Yesterday morning we gave our readers four or five columns of telegraphic dispatches of a character which can only be described as "a big heap of nothing." We had nothing of account to report, save for a week or two, and have nothing this evening—no speculations of Eastern papers upon the probabilities of what Mr. Crittenden will do unless he changes his mind, or what Congress is expecting to do provided they do not do something else; no reports by way of the Apache Indians of Maximilian's abdication, or of the various movements of the fight, Chinamen arrests, assignments of boat crews, for the benefit of creditors, police drunks, or divorces, from San Francisco. We are compelled to pay one hundred dollars a week for telegraphic dispatches four-fifths of which are in the character of news not fit for the paper being behind the times in newspaper enterprise, we would much sooner supply the space devoted to these dispatches in our paper to clippings from Eastern papers a month old when they reach us. We would not mind this expensive humbug so much if there was any reciprocity on the part of San Francisco. The Herald uses our paper to advertise San Francisco and California, and makes us pay dearly for the privilege, while the San Francisco papers rarely publish a line of telegraphic news from Oregon. It is a great advantage to San Francisco to be advertised by telegraph, and cheaply, but not a favor that they never reciprocate. Portland, so far as telegraphic reports are concerned, is a *terra incognita* to the readers of San Francisco papers, and the voluminous telegraphic reports for which we pay, from San Francisco, are mainly of very little value to our readers, and the second hand news which we get from the East is but little if any better.

We might add an interrogation, and ask when there was ever a word in the San Francisco reports worth a pinch of snuff to the reader of any paper in Oregon? We really think that the \$10,000 or \$12,000 annually paid by the Portland papers for dispatches ought to bring them at least once in a while, the current quotations of fruit, etc., in the market at the metropolis of the coast.

INSANE PERSONS.—How the newspapers first began the publication of such details as the commitments of persons to the Insane Asylum, we do not know, but certain it is such matters ought not to be made public, in many instances. An active and reliable business man may become prostrated to such an extent that his friends deem it necessary to send him to an institution of the character above mentioned, for treatment. Let the papers get hold of the case and the man is ruined for life, even though he emerge from the Asylum thoroughly cured in ten days from the time of his commitment. These matters are done by the press thoughtlessly, and we have probably contributed a share to the misery entailed in consequence of it, but being satisfied that a lunatic can be held accountable for no crime against the laws, we shall in future omit the publication of commitments to the Asylum, and endeavor to allay the impression that an insane person is even worse than a convict.

PORTLAND BONDS.—The committee of the Portland Council, having in charge the Willamette river improvements, have disposed of bonds at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent discount, to pay indebtedness. These bonds, having been issued to meet an expense which was incurred for the benefit of the entire State—ought not to have been allowed to sell below par. Portland deserves credit for what she has done, and we vote to have an Oregon legislature reimburse her.

H. B. COMPANY'S CASE.—Our worthy fellow townsmen, Hon. W. C. Johnson, attorney for the United States, to take testimony in the case of the Hudson's Bay Co. and Puget Sound Agricultural Co., against this Government, has returned from Puget Sound, and is now engaged for a few days in taking testimony at Portland. He is in a fair way to save the government some millions in this matter.

THE RETAILERS.—The retail merchants of San Francisco appointed a committee to draw up an agreement to be presented to the wholesalers, for signatures, to the effect that they will not retail and wholesale at the same time. The wholesalers, as a general thing, wouldn't fall in, hence the retailers now deal only with such as agree to do both branches of business.

EASTERN OREGON.—The wheat crop of the upper country is estimated as follows: Walla Walla valley, 200,000; Grand Ronde valley, 100,000; Powder River, Payette and Boise valleys, 50,000. The crops of Umatilla, Celilo, Nez Perce country, Bitter Root and adjoining valleys, will probably reach 50,000—making a total of 400,000 bushels.

MILITARY.—Capt. Kelly, and Lieut. Eskridge, of the 8th U. S. Cavalry, with 56 men and 60 horses, left this city on Thursday for Fort Klamath. Capt. Sprague's company, the last of the Oregon Infantry, will be relieved and mustered out.

CHANGED ITS MIND.—The Richmond *Advertiser* urges strongly the encouragement of Irish immigration into the South. It seems to recognize at last the importance of the "mud-sills of society" in the work of a substantial and healthy reconstruction.

THE NEW MAYOR.—Mr. T. J. Holmes of Portland, was elected to fill the vacancy occurring by Mr. Failling's resignation.

The National Finances.

Secretary McCulloch, being on a visit to his native New-England, was invited to dine with the solid men of Boston. The letter failed to reach him, until after his return to Washington; but he responded, showing why he could not accept, and in speaking of the National Finances, the following occurs:

Although it was hoped that ere this the currency of the country would have been brought nearer to the specie standard, I am sure the people have cause for congratulation that our finances are in so healthy a condition as they are.

Since March 1865, the war has been

fully disbanded—every soldier has been

paid before being mustered out of the ser-

vice—all maturing obligations of the gov-

ernment have been satisfactorily provided for—while the National debt is nearly \$250,000,000 less than it was estimated it would be at the present time, and the reduction of \$10,000,000 per month, if any other

Nation ever rolled a debt so rapidly, would cer-

tainly ever commenced the reduction of its

debt so soon after its creation. *

* * * * *

Our taxes are heavy, our resources are al-

most unlimited, while the disposition of the

people to bear cheerfully their burdens, is a

sure confidence in the honor and good faith of a free people. In my opinion, the people of the United States are to make Republicanism illustrious among the nations by estab-

lishing the fact that the securities of a Republi-

cian government are the safest of all securi-

ties, and that the people who impose

such taxes are the most jealous of their Na-

tional credit.

I do not, however, disguise the fact that

great financial difficulties are still to be over-

come—that our present prosperity is rather

apparent than real, that we are measuring

value by false standards, and that we are in

an inflated and irresponsible currency, which

diminishes labor—the true source of National

wealth—and stimulates speculation and ex-

travagance which lead invariably to thrift-

lessness and demoralization.

The Editor of the *Mountaineer* has been

shown by Mr. R. W. Crandall some fine

specimens of gold and copper bearing quartz

from ledges discovered in the state of

Eagle Creek during the summer. In

the creek native copper is visible, as

is also gold in the gold quartz.

Hon. Quincy A. Brooks, Special Postal

Agent at San Francisco, is making an effort

to have the printed portion of the mail that

belongs north of the Columbia mountains,

sent by steamer during the winter months

from San Francisco to Portland. It would

prove a great benefit to the people.

The Indians at Fort Dalles had a war

dance Monday the 13th at the Fort for the

benefit of themselves as well as for the

citizens. Indians realized the sum of about

\$30, with which they purchased tobacco for

their expedition.

The *Statesman* learns that the work of can-

vassing for subscriptions to the stock of the

Oregon Central Railroad will soon commence

and be energetically pushed until the whole

valley is thoroughly canvassed.

The entire property valuation of Oregon

at the last assessment in full, was \$24,871,

782, 24, or a little more than \$883 12 to each

man, woman and child within the State.

We cannot say that it is a poverty-stricken

people.

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