



THE SPECTATOR.

H. A. G. LEE, EDITOR.—J. FLEMING, PR.

Oregon City, April 30, 1846.

Most of the individuals composing the companies which have started for the states this spring, may be considered returnable, if we may judge from their words and actions, most of them having selected claims, recorded and improved them to the extent the law requires, and in many instances appointed agents to settle the absentee tax, thereby evincing a confidence in the stability of our social compact, highly flattering to our citizens. As the object of their long journey is to fetch their families, and such description of property as is best adapted to the country, it is to be hoped their reliance on the law's protection, will secure them their chosen locations on their return. We understand it is the intention of two of their number to bring back as large a drove of sheep as is compatible with the nature of the journey—"a consummation devoutly to be wished."

It is with pleasure we learn that most of the late immigrants who have located themselves in Polk county and the upper Willamette, express themselves highly delighted with that section of the country, and have already made apparent, by the extent and number of improvements, how highly the western emigrant is qualified for the settlement and advancement of a new country. That portion south of the Santyam is also filling with occupants, who represent the soil and situation among the best in the valley; and should the enterprise of obtaining a southern pass for wagons in that neighborhood succeed, (which we doubt not,) the location cannot fail to be highly desirable. Where all extol their individual selections as the best and choicest, we must conclude, either that the country abounds with valuable spots, that the land is generally good, or that we are a happy race of mortals.

POLITICAL.—We would invite the attention of our politicians and statesmen, and especially those who expect a seat in the next house of representatives, to the policy of the following, which we copy from the "St. Louis Weekly Reveille," because it involves a principle which we think worthy the consideration of our "knowing ones," and one that has already been called up in our legislature; and although it was then, after a partial discussion, condemned, yet we are inclined to think a more full, deliberate and enlightened investigation, might result in the return of a different verdict. The right of trial by jury is one of those essential guards which have been thrown around the lives and liberties of freemen, without which there would be little security to either. It should therefore, itself, be well guarded, and never suffered to become oppressive to any part of the community. It was once the policy of some of the states to compel their citizens to serve on juries for a mere nominal *per diem* allowance—not sufficient to pay half their unavoidable expenses, to say nothing of that "full compensation for their services" promised in most of their constitutions; thus rendering the TRIAL BY JURY a burthen to the community. But this oppressive policy has been made to feel the force of the correcting power inherent in our form of government. Jurors are paid in most, if not all the states, a reasonable compensation, and the only remaining question is, from what source shall we raise the necessary funds?

Mr. Bassett's plan, as will be seen below, proposes to raise a jury fund—first, by limiting the amount of fees accruing to certain officers, and appropriating the overplus to that purpose; and secondly, taxing litigation. This last method is that to which the attention of our political friends is especially solicited. Let those who are candidates, and who, of course, expect to figure in the next legislature, consider well our present jury system and the difficulties with which government has met from that quarter, and weigh them with the objections to taxing litigation.

LEGISLATIVE.—In the house, on the 13th, Mr. Bassett introduced a jury law for St. Louis county. It provides for the distribution of jury service, pays each juror 75 cents per day, and provides that all fees of the sheriff over \$6,000, and all the fees of the clerks of the circuit court and court of common pleas over \$3,000, and of the criminal court over \$2,000, and of marshal over \$2,500, and of law commissioner over \$1,000, shall be paid into the county treasury to form a jury fund. It also imposes a tax of \$3 on each cause tried in court, to be added to the jury fund.

ALARM!—Quite an excitement was created in the Tualaty plains last week by the report that the Indians were erecting a fortification, with the intention of commencing hostilities against the whites. Upon repairing to the spot, however, it was discovered that the dreaded fortification was merely a cow-pen. The gentleman who had originated the report, being more acquainted with the sea than the land, must be excused for his mistake.—Communicated.

APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR.

APRIL 14.

JAMES P. MARTIN, sheriff for Champoeg county, vice WILLIAM P. HUGHES.

Westward, Ho!

The St. Louis Gazette names the Lagrange (Texas) Herald as the most western newspaper in America.

The above is doubtless correct, but the "Platte Argus" is the most western paper in the United States. We shall soon have to give in our *sundown* position to some enterprising typo who will be totting a press to Oregon. How funny it will seem to be termed "our eastern cotemporary."—*Platte Argus*, 1845.

The "Spectator" caps the climax, and the prediction is fulfilled, with the exception, that the enterprise belongs to the citizens of Oregon. Our "sunrise cotemporary" may therefore experience his droll feelings at the earliest opportunity.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—It is expected that all who forward communications to us for publication, will give us their proper names, and that on such as they forward by mail they will pay the postage.

We acknowledge the receipt of a long communication from "A Friend to Truth and Justice," in reply to the rejoinder of J. L. Meek, which we decline publishing, for no other reason than that, enough has been said on a subject of so little general interest to the community.

We are pleased to see the answer of "Unus Populi" to "A Farmer," although we cannot assent to the correctness of his interpretation of the 4th section of the land law, yet we believe discussion is the most direct road to the discovery of truth, and that correct views and principles have nothing to fear from investigation.

Passage Boats on the Willamette.

In the march of improvement in our infant colony, that of boat conveyance is fast progressing. We beg to call the attention of the public to two well built and commodious boats, and of superior mould, now employed between Oregon City and Champoeg. These ply twice a week upon our beautiful stream, exporting the "staff of life" from our fertile plains above, and importing returns from below. But it is to the accommodation afforded by them to our fellow-citizens, and settlers, that we at present speak. We have paid a visit to the "Mogul" and "Franklin," and can testify to the ample and roomy space, allotted aboard, for the comfort of from 15 to 20 passengers, and from what we have heard expressed by those who have made the passage, and our own personal knowledge of the Captain of the "Great Mogul," much is added to the pleasure of the trip through his kindness, polite attention, and urbanity. The passage averages, during all weathers, from seven to ten hours. The sailing and pulling qualities of these craft are also first rate. The *Mogul* goes swiftly "on a wind"—the *Franklin* beating "close hauled." The fare (50 cents) we consider very moderate, considering there is no opposition. We conclude by assuring our readers that the passage is rendered perfectly safe, through the nautical knowledge of Captain Flooko of the "Franklin," who is an experienced pilot through all the shoals, rocks, and snags of the river. We learn that the Captain has secured for his next trip, a cargo of OAK SAPLINGS for the "Modeste."

Columbus was the first who conceived the idea of going west to arrive at the East Indies. His discovery of America was owing to that idea. He was in search of a western passage to the coast of Asia when he was arrested by an unexpected intervention of the American continent. Nor had he any idea that he had found a new world. He lived himself on the coast of India, and under that belief gave the name of Indians to the inhabitants—a name which they have retained ever since, although the error on which it was founded has long since exploded.—*Robinson*.

The United Family.—A PUZZLE.

We are a large family, united by the firmest and closest bonds of friendship, and so much attached to each other, that a separation always causes pain to the whole circle; and seldom are any of us affected by disease, but it extends to the most distant of us. We did not make our appearance in this world at the same time, neither do we finish our career together, as various accidents and horrid cruelties tear us from each other, and when dragged from our native place, we are cast away as useless; though, when united, we form one of the greatest ornaments of the human race, and great pains are taken to preserve us in a state of health and beauty. We are not famed for oratory, yet we greatly assist a very near neighbor in his delivery of speech, both in public and private; and, without our friendly aid, his most persuasive accents would fail in their effect. Though small in size, yet such is our strength that we can perform work, with ease to ourselves, which could not be so well done by the nicest machinery. The art of man has done much to form imitations of us, yet never can he compete with nature, in combining beauty, usefulness, and durability, such as we possess. Young readers, take care of these precious treasures while you have them, for never can you purchase such again.—*Communicated*.

A number of the officers of her B. M. S. Modeste have been enjoying themselves during the past week, in the Tualaty plains. We are pleased to see them visiting, and joining in the rural amusements of our farmers, as none are more willing to extend the rights of hospitality to strangers than themselves. One of them had a most interesting chase after a beautiful little animal, denominated a—*skunk!* He did not succeed in catching the animal, but he caught an awful—*phew!* Never mind; better luck next time. Experience teaches wisdom.—*Communicated*.

UPPER WILLAMETTE, April 24, 1846.

Mr. Lee—Sir: You will confer a great favor on me by publishing the following letter for the benefit of my creditors.

It is due to my creditors as well as myself, that I should make a statement, through the columns of the Spectator, in explanation of my conduct. The reason of my leaving the country, is plain to every one acquainted with my business. My contract with Mr. Welch is well known, and it is as well known that he is less able to lift my paper now, than at any former time. His losing on his log contract has cut off all hopes of his being able, though his will be ever so good. For me to remain here, with an officer at my back, until I should make 12 or \$1500 at the bench, would be a burden too heavy for me to think of contending with, when I can go to the Spanish country where there are openings for me in the red wood, where I can make the amount I am owing in Oregon in half the time I could by staying and making the attempt.

My course may be considered dishonorable by some, but I have bought my outfit of animals, and gave my paper for their value, and for some I have given double the amount they are worth. I have always said no man should ever lose a dollar by me. I am well known to some of the community as being a man that will pay when he can. I shall send cattle and horses every opportunity, until every cent is paid, with good interest.

Yours, with respect,

M. M. WORNBOUGH.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

Mr. Editor—I beg leave, through the columns of your paper, to say a few words in reply to the communication of "A Farmer," which appeared in the 5th No. of the Spectator. I shall pass over what he has said in relation to the irregular and unprecedented manner in which the amendments to the Organic law are proposed, as these are questions which do not, in the smallest degree, affect the soundness and wisdom of the policy in which the amendments are founded, and confine my reflections to the proposed amendments themselves.

I most heartily approve the amendment proposed to the fourth section of the land law. As that section now stands, there is danger of its being productive of consequences which would be fatal to the good of the country. For what would be the effect of allowing several persons to form themselves into private corporations for the purpose of holding land claims, but to allow them to monopolize all the important locations in the section of country where they might choose to settle? For example, a company of ten men would go to the Clamet, one make a claim at the mouth of the river, another at the head of navigation, and the others select the best mill privileges, &c., and all reside at the same place, for there is nothing in the law to prohibit them from doing this. The proviso in the fourth section merely says, that "no member of the partnership shall hold a separate claim at the time of the existence of said partnership;" which will admit of no other fair and reasonable interpretation than that he shall hold no other claim than the one which he holds in common with the other partners; and it is immaterial whether the claims be contiguous or not—distance and locality are quite out of the question. Now, the injustice of this sort of operation must be apparent to every rational thinker. It would be giving to a few an incalculable advantage over those who would follow, for they would find the hands of the monopoly upon almost every situation giving promise of value and importance—whereas, if not more than two were allowed to hold claims in partnership, there would be a more equitable division of chances.

But these are not the only evils growing out of the case above instanced. It would, in every way, be prejudicial to the interest and welfare of the country. The favored monopoly would rise to wealth and grandeur, and, like the fabled Bohon Upas, shed blight and desolation on all around. The spirit of

speculation has prevailed at all times and in all countries. It is rife here! But so long as restrained by a proper sense of justice among men, it is beneficial to society by acting as a stimulus upon the energies of individuals; but when it transcends this circle, or, to speak with more propriety, when it falls beneath it, and you give it the protection of the law, it becomes a wild and unchainable monster, whose keen eye ever rolls in vigilance, and whose glory and delight it is to ruin and destroy the happiness of others to glut its own unhallowed and insatiable avarice.

I will now advert to the second amendment as proposed by the legislature, viz: "to amend the land law so as to permit claimants to hold six hundred acres in the prairie, and forty acres in the timber, though said tracts do not join," which "A Farmer" considers "rather a fit subject of amendment than serious argument." Here I must again beg leave to differ with him. I regard this amendment as a measure which, if ratified by the people, will promote, in a more eminent degree, the happiness of neighborhoods and the prosperity of Oregon in general, than any thing else ever proposed or enacted by the legislature. Every one who has travelled much over the Willamette valley, knows that there are many large and fertile districts of country almost entirely destitute of timber, and that the present wild and unclaimed state of these portions of the valley will be co-extensive with the duration of the existing law, compelling individuals to locate the whole of their sections in one undivided body; no one who thinks rightly can indulge a doubt, it would be downright blindness and folly in any man to locate in any of the large prairies, without having secured to himself a sufficiency of timber for building, fencing, and other indispensable farming purposes; and as to "A Farmer's" suggestion of the propriety of debaring any one of the privilege of making a location wholly in the timber, such can never be the law of the land as long as the people and the legislature remain in the possession of their reasoning faculties; but it will ever be just what it now is—a *crude suggestion*.

No real farmer would ever hug to his bosom the delusion that the fire-covered hills could long be depended upon by him for timber unless he was invested with some better title than that of a mere right in common with his neighbors; for the eye of speculation is never closed; and as soon as the prairies would begin to be occupied, the timbered districts would be seized upon for the purpose of speculation—to be sold off in parcels, at exorbitant prices, to those who would be compelled either to purchase or to abandon their prairie locations.

If this amendment be rejected by the people, some of the fairest and richest portions of this lovely valley will long remain unoccupied; but if it should be adopted, it will not be long before we will see log cabins rising, and the virgin turf yielding to the plough-share in the very heart and centre of our large prairies, as well as along the timbered streams and at the foot of the hills. Then, and not till then, will we have densely populated neighborhoods and good schools; then will Oregon prosper, and contentment prevail among her citizens! This is a question upon which the attention of the people should be aroused; and as it is of vital importance to them and to Oregon, they should give it their sedate consideration, that they may cast their votes wisely and judiciously. Notwithstanding the legislature may have fallen into some errors, and done some foolish things, the second proposed amendment to the land law is clearly an act of wisdom; and as we deprecate their follies, we should sustain them in every act which would redound to the interest and welfare of the country.

UNUS POPULI.

Agricultural Chemistry Simplified.

FROM LIEBIG AND OTHERS.—NO. 1.

The following, it is hoped, will attract the attention of our readers to subjects which so well merit their consideration—the new views and discoveries, which have been eagerly embraced by the agriculturists of the eastern world, and which cannot fail to be of importance in their practical applications. Whenever the language of the author has been departed from, or condensed, the object has been to render it more intelligible to those who have not made this interesting department of science their peculiar study.—Ed.

Perfect agriculture is the foundation of all trade, and industry—it is the foundation of