

The Weekly Chronicle.

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THE JUDGMENT IN THE STEEVES CASE.

After several months of consideration the supreme court has set aside the verdict in the Steeves murder case and granted the defendant a new trial. Steeves was convicted, along with Bunco Kelly, for the atrocious murder of old man Sayres, and was given a trial before a jury of his peers. He was ably defended, or had the opportunity to be, and claimed and received all the protection which the law gives to those charged with a crime of this degree. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and Steeves received a fifteen-year sentence in the penitentiary, besides the penalty of a heavy fine.

Beyond the immediate circle of the defendant's friends, the action of the supreme court will not meet with approval. Steeves was given a fair trial, no substantial injustice being done him during its progress. The jury was an average one for intelligence and honesty, and the judge leaning to the side of mercy. Through the raising of fine technical points, the defendant's lawyers have succeeded in having the case remanded, and more than that, Steeves has been declared acquitted of murder in the first and second degrees, and can only be arraigned for manslaughter.

It has long been conceded that something is wrong with our administration of justice. Opinions may differ as to where the fault lies, but the general conclusion is the same. The supreme court is the weakest spot in the system, for it is there where the principles of justice are made of less concern than the rules of law. Juries may be condemned, and sometimes justly; but if the history of the courts were searched, it would be found that even poised justice had received more of her due at the hands of juries than from the supreme courts—the Oregon one particularly. The action of this body in the Sandy Olds case is remembered to the discredit of the judges. Repeated convictions by the jury resulted only in the cases being reversed—at one time the point being raised and considered that the speech of the district attorney was so eloquent that it swerved the judgment of the jury.

PERSONA NON GRATA.

Mr. J. G. Day, brevetted "Colonel" by the Oregonian, has accused the Dalles papers of being too impatient. It is possible that a people who, through years of waiting have shown an unparalleled forbearance, should, when exasperated beyond measure, give way to a feeling of impatience which may displease Mr. Day and the horde of government engineers whose stock just at present is below par.

Mr. Day states that the contract will be entirely completed in the course of several weeks. It may and may not be. The people have absolutely no faith in Mr. Day or his promises, and fail to see any reason why the work should be done several weeks from now any more than at the present.

Mr. Day has proved that his promises are brittle as glass, made only to be broken, and he need not ponder long why it is his statements are not given credence by those people who have watched his actions during the past two years. The people have been patient and the press silent because it was desired that no obstacle be placed in the way of the contractors; but we are free to say that their methods during this time have been open to condemnation.

The point is right here. The engineers state that the flood of 1894 demonstrated the need of walls between the locks and riprap work upon the bank touching the river. At that time Major Post said an additional appropriation would be necessary before the locks could be called fully completed, but the impression was fully and officially given

out that the locks could be operated with the completion of the then existing contract. This further work was a means of precaution simply. Now, like a bolt from a clear sky, comes the statement that the locks cannot be operated without this additional appropriation, steps to secure which, Mr. Day says, have been taken. If eighteen months ago this necessity was seen, and there has been no intervening occurrence to lead to such a conclusion, why was not the matter made clear to the public so that a move could be made to secure such action by congress? We have been misled on all sides, and whilst Mr. Day, midst the popping of champagne corks, told of boats passing through the locks by March 1st, the people, like simple-minded folk, believed him.

If the year 1896 passes without the locks being operated, there will have been perpetrated upon the people of the Inland Empire a monstrous wrong, an injustice which will cause the blood of every honest man to boil with indignation. Mr. Day is right; the people are impatient, and refuse to be comforted by his soothing words as they have been in the past.

THE OREGONIAN AND THE LOCKS.

The people are becoming aroused over the situation at the locks. It is the universal opinion that we have been cattle long enough, and that it is time to impress upon our senators and representatives that if their political future amounts to anything in Eastern Oregon it will be because they show at this juncture that they are made of the right kind of stuff. A cause of disappointment to the citizens of The Dalles is the silence maintained by the Oregonian, the paper that supposedly leads all others in the Northwest in moulding public opinion. The Oregonian must know, as we do, that promises regarding the locks have been most shamefully violated; that there must needs have been crookedness somewhere to produce the result that exists; that the cherished hope of the people of Eastern Oregon, among whom the Oregonian is valued as much as among our neighbors west of the Cascades, has been shattered, and that disappointment, chagrin and indignation exist. And yet the Oregonian is silent.

We have waited to hear some expressions from that paper. We have waited hopefully, for we knew that an expression from the Oregonian would have more weight than all the pleas the Mountaineer and Chronicle could put forth; but we waited in vain. On today's editorial page there were articles on local politics in Multnomah county; the belligerency of Cuba; the chance of the Democracy to declare for sound money; the short food supply of Great Britain; the troubles in the Salvation Army; the Panama canal and the Northern Pacific receivership, besides paragraphs regarding various topics, some of importance, others not; but never a word regarding the Cascade locks and the humbuggery that has been practiced. We dislike to carp at the Oregonian, because it is like the weak railing at the strong; but we can tell that paper, if it wishes to continue as the leader of opinion in Oregon, and possess influence in this section, it must have more concern for the welfare of the people.

The Oregonian knows that the condition at the locks is not what it should be, and yet it says not a word in protest. Much as we prefer the Oregonian to the Examiner, and papers of its kind, we believe the latter would have opened its batteries against the men who are doing Eastern Oregon such an injustice.

Can it be the protestations of friendship from Portland are false, and that after all they do not want the locks opened? It is for the Oregonian to say.

We are under the necessity of recalling the invitation extended some time ago to the people of the Northwest asking them to take part in the celebration at the opening of the locks. The celebration will not occur, it having been decided otherwise by the Messrs. Day and the officious engineers, whose work is the laughing stock of all who are acquainted with it. Don't ask us when the celebration will take place, as it is a sensitive subject and one that nobody knows anything about save the Days, the engineers and the Almighty, and we are not sure that the latter has been consulted.

Ex-Senator Dolph delivered a speech on the money question before the Mt. Tabor Republican club, the printing of which occupied two pages in the Oregonian. Dolph made a good record while in the senate, but it never came through ability to interest his hearers. It looks as if Dolph intends being an active candidate for Mitchell's seat, and if so he does not want to make many speeches like the one delivered at Mt. Tabor. In the United States senate, where time is of no account, lengthy speeches are admissible, but the people of Oregon are too busy to give much time to them.

The development of photography by the Cathode rays promises to bring about great things. If the process could only be perfected so that between now and the June election the craniums of the various candidates could be photographed and their real views revealed, a great boon would be conferred upon a suffering constituency.

A POET BY ROYAL EDICT.

The attitude of England towards the Armenians, however reprehensible it may appear in the eyes of civilization, has been the means of showing upon whom the poet laureateship should have been bestowed at the time it was given to Alfred Austin. As proven time and again by the events of history, the occasion, while it does not necessarily make the man, gives him an opportunity of revealing himself in his greatest stature. The sufferings of Armenia have given to English poets this opportunity, and the way they have improved it tells in what unskilled hands the laureateship, honored by Wordsworth and made half divine by Tennyson, has fallen.

The world remembers yet, though it will not much longer, the dull lines of Austin written on the death of Henry of Battenburg, verses which are remarkable for nothing, save their commonplaceness, and which breathe a sickly sentiment of toadyism that cannot help disgust like countrymen, no matter how imbued with the spirit of allegiance to loyalty. Austin writes like a school boy whose task must be performed, but who has neither the capabilities nor spirit of a student. His lines bear repetition here, not for their merit, but as affording a comparison with those of a poet who by all right of genius should have been decorated with the laurel wreath. Austin apotheosizes Henry thus:

"Another Albert shalt Thou be, so known, So known, so honored, and His name shall stand The sponsor to your spotlessness until Dawns the full day when conscious of your soul, Your soul, your self, and that high mission laid On all of such begetting, you can seize The scepter of your will, and thuswise armed Against the sirens of disloyal sense, Like to your pure progenitor abide In God's stern presence, and surrender never That last prerogative of all your race, To live and die for England!"

While the poet laureate has been singing his dirges to royalty, William Watson, stirred by the monstrous wrongs which every day are being heaped upon a helpless people, is calling England to account for her murderous negligence. From the many verses breathing England's shame and telling of her dishonor, we select this one, which shows a poet with a mission:

Still, on life's loom, the infernal warp and weft Woven each hour! Still, in anguish renewed, A great real, waiting, and God's great crown! Ever the same! The little children elect In twin; the little, tender maidens reft Of maidenhood! And through a little town A stranger journeying wrote this record down: "In all the place there was not one man left." O friend, the sudden lightning of whose pen Makes Horror's countenance visible afar, And Desolation's face familiar, I think this very England of my ken Is wondrous like that little town, where are In all the streets and houses no more men.

While Austin, with his dull words, is paying his debt to royalty, Watson is arousing the English heart as Whittier did the American forty years before.

The laureateship means nothing to Watson, but England would have brought honor to herself by recognizing the genius that dares to cry out when wrong is being done.

MISSOURI AND REPUBLICANS.

The reason for the interest which the coming Republican canvass in Missouri is beginning to arouse throughout the country is easy to grasp, says the Globe-Democrat. As the Empire State of what has been known as the solid South, it is natural that Missouri in the present transition period in politics should occupy a large share of the general public's attention. The Republicans of the whole country recognized this situation by choosing the State's chief city for the meeting-place of their national gathering, nothing but the foolish dread of the Democrats of the Eastern States that a convention held here would be exposed to a dangerous free silver influence prevented the National Democracy from following the Republican example in this particular.

When Missouri was carried by the Republicans for the state ticket chosen in 1894 the country saw that an epoch had been closed. A new era, with different political ideals and other and larger interests and aspirations, opened with that victory. In that canvass was dealt the blow which shattered the solid South. Right there was seen the beginning of the rising tide which swept the Republicans into power in Kentucky and Maryland in 1895, and which will put them in possession of several other States of the same region in 1896. That swing in Missouri from 41,000 Democratic plurality in 1892 to 3000 Republican plurality in 1894 marked the dividing line between the period of sectional and of national politics throughout the country.

It is hardly necessary to point out that these very conditions impose a heavy responsibility upon the Republicans of the state in the coming canvass. The good work of political enfranchisement for the state which was started in 1894 must be rounded out this year by the rescue of the offices still in Democratic hands. The Republican party of the country at large expects this, and it must not be disappointed. The business interests and social reputation of the state demand it, and their claims can not be disregarded without subjecting the Republican party to serious discredit. No party in any state in which there is ordinarily an approximately equal division between the great organizations ever started out under more hopeful conditions than those which present themselves to the Republican party this year. All the indications point to Republican success. Yet in order to make success certain the Republicans must show that they deserve success. By nominating a ticket which

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represent the best elements and principles of the party the Republicans can command victory.

The reverse of the Italian arms in Abyssinia means serious things for Italy. A nation that is on the very verge of bankruptcy cannot stand any further drains. The only hope for a government like Italy, which is torn by internal dissensions, to perpetuate its existence is to maintain such a brilliant foreign policy that the people forget the misery at home. The Rome of ancient days did this, and when its foreign conquests ceased its domestic strength quickly failed. There promises soon to be an upheaval among the European nations, and Italy will be the first to pass under the new order.

Captain General Weyler, who because of his reputation for cruelty, was placed in command of the Spanish army in Cuba, expresses surprise that a nation, which he always supposed friendly to Spain, has taken steps to recognize as honorable enemies people who burn, steal and destroy, and who hang peaceful citizens for no other reason than that they are enemies. For a man like Weyler, whose sole fitness for command is his willingness to practice all sorts of cruelty, to talk thus is like the devil preaching the Sermon on the Mount. The recognition of Cuba by the United States is to assist that nation in escaping the domineering of Spanish barbarians, among whom Weyler stands in the front rank.

REGARDING THE LOCKS.

Pendleton East Oregonian: March the first is here, and no boat has passed, or is going to pass in the near future, the locks at the Cascades, as has been repeatedly promised by the government contractors. The government teat continues to give down too rich milk to those on the inside, hence the people are to be trifled with for some time to come, while the "milking" goes on and more government money is squandered by political knaves and their friends, assisted by the army officers in charge of the works and the contractors.

Fossil Journal: It is with deep regret we learn that the date of the opening of the Cascade locks of the Columbia river is a matter of doubt and uncertainty, and that there is no probability of the river being open for traffic by the first of March, as was promised. To be sure a boat may be passed through, but if so it will be a grand farce. It is very disheartening to have the cup dashed from our lips just when we were ready to quaff the delicious contents. Who is it that has lied, anyway?

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Articles of incorporation have been filed in the clerk's office of the Cape Horn Mining Co., with a capital stock of \$3,500. The incorporators are Messrs. I. H. Taffe, R. Hesse, J. P. McInerney, E. J. Collins, C. B. Johnson, A. Bettingen and James L. Taffe. The business of the corporation is to engage in placer mining on the following-named claims, situated in Wasco county: "Evening Star," "Morning Star," "Kitty," "Bluebird," "Sixteen to One," "Sunrise" and "Golden Fleece."

The above-named and designated claims comprise a little gold field all by itself, containing 220 acres of ground below Celilo Falls, and within the space comprised by the Columbia river and the railroad from north to south and bounded by ridges of rock on the east and west. Every foot of it is pay dirt from the surface down. It is part of the old river bed where once flowed the Columbia. It has been worked over for years by Chinamen, who were satisfied to work with the primitive rocker and clean up from \$1.50 to \$4 per day.

The company have owned the claims about eight months, and have done more than enough development work to entitle them to hold the property. This work consists of a flume, from Celilo Falls to the diggings, and a shaft. The deeper the shaft has been sunk, the richer has been the pay. They are now in a black gold-bearing sand, which averages 25 cents to the pan. Twenty-five cents a pan, or even one cent, means fabulous riches, if the pay dirt holds out. There is no fear on this score. It is uniformly impregnated with the precious metal, having been deposited as placer by centuries of action of the rolling currents of the Columbia river. If bed rock is once struck it will be literally coated with gold.

The company having plenty of water and fall for it, and sufficient capital behind it, will operate the field according to the latest approved method. They will flume the water to a bulkhead, where it will enter a large hose and turn the force loose from a nozzle—the regular hydraulic process. The dirt will thus be forced through flame boxes, when the gold, being heaviest, will sink to the bottom and be held by cross pieces or riffles, while the dirt, robbed of the precious metal, will go onward through the boxes and form piles of what is called "tailings."

The shaft has been sunk to the present level of the Columbia, where water was encountered. Pumps will be employed to keep the water out.

There is no doubt that paying gold fields can be found wherever there has been an old river channel, and though the Celilo field is pretty well corralled, there are undoubtedly others both above and below it. It is very likely that the Columbia river once floated at the base of the Klickitat hills, about four miles from its present channel, and should the present channel ever shift, though no one will feel disposed to wait for that, gold may be found a foot thick on the bed rock at the bottom. This is proven by the sand everywhere along the river, which always shows "colors."

With but little care and no trouble, the beard and mustache can be kept uniform brown or black color by using Buckingham's Dye for the whiskers.

Real Estate Transfers.

James M Smith and Mary Jane Smith to John P. Thomson, lots G and H, block 53, Ft. Dalles Mill Res; consideration \$250. Mary D. Axe to A. S. Bennett, undivided fifth interest in forfeited railroad land claim of Rogers' heirs, ne qr nw qr, sec 5 and lots 3, 6 and 7; consideration \$200.

R. F. Gibbons to A. S. Bennett, quit claim deed, to certain lots in Trevitt addition; consideration \$1.

State of Oregon to A. S. Bennett, lot 4, sec 5, tp 1 n, r 13 e; \$26.63.

Thomas R. Coon and wife to Lyman Smith, lots 3 and 4 and south 37 1/2 feet, lots 1 and 2, block 8, Winans addition to Hood River; consideration \$200.

Helen J. Smith to Lyman Smith, lot 6 and nw qr sw qr, sec 35, tp 3 n, r 10 e; \$1 and other valuable considerations.

Annie Sylvester and W. E. Sylvester to D. Siddell, two feet of east side lot 5, block 8, Bigelow addition to Dalles City; \$1 and other valuable considerations.

Emma B. Emerson to John J. Wosley lots 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37 in block 9 of Irvine's and Watson's second addition to Hood River; consideration \$400.

Henry C. Coe and Kitty Coe to J. R. Galligan and Mary G. Galligan, lot 9, block 2, Peck's addition to East Portland; consideration \$3,000.

Wm. John Ashby to Mary R. Steers, (quit claim) lots 9 and 10, block 3, Laughlin's addition to Dalles City; consideration \$1.

J. B. Ashby et al to Mary R. Steers, (quit claim) lots 9 and 10, block 3, Laughlin's addition to Dalles City; consideration \$1.

Kitty Coe and H. C. Coe to L. N. Blowers, lot 5, sec. A, South Waucoma; consideration \$800.

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