

THE OREGON MIST.

VOL. XV.

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NO. 13.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

From all Parts of the New and Old World.

BRIEF AND INTERESTING ITEMS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Current Week.

Charles Outten, night agent of the Adams Express Company at Orville, O., disappeared with a \$10,000 package.

The United States supreme court has affirmed the decision of Judge Bellinger, of the circuit court, upholding the mortgage tax law of Oregon, passed October 28, 1897.

Joseph Hoye, a Chicago plumber, who committed suicide by shooting himself, is the third of three brothers to meet such a fate. It seems to be a case of family mania for self-destruction.

The Pacific cable bill has been agreed to in the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce. It provides for the construction of a cable from San Francisco to the Hawaiian islands.

Representative Tongue, of Oregon, is trying to arrange to have the veterans of the Indian war taken at soldiers' homes under the same regulations as are the veterans of the Mexican and the late war.

Advices from the Orient, brought by the steamship Empress of India, which has arrived in Vancouver, B. C., tell of the almost complete destruction of Manila, Philippine islands, by fire. Five million dollars' worth of property was destroyed.

There has been a heavy fall in stocks of all kinds in London in consequence of rumors from China, West Africa, Spain and America, with rumbling thunder all around the sky. There are signs of alarm in every section of the stock list, American securities showing the greatest weakness. Nothing short of a miracle can preserve the peace of the world, it is believed among British statesmen and politicians, wires the New York World's London correspondent. Not since the Napoleonic wars has danger threatened so many quarters.

In case of war between Spain and the United States, England, it is said, will at least lend us her moral support.

The Washington Post says Mary Elizabeth Leese, of Kansas, will speak in Oregon during the coming state election.

A London dispatch to a New York paper says that in an emergency Paris would supply Spain with money to carry on a war with the United States.

The navy department will send the dispatch boat Fern to Cuba with provisions for the starving people. It was at first intended to send the cruiser Montgomery.

A dispatch to the London Mail from Hong Kong says that a fresh rebellion has broken in the Philippines, and that 53 Spanish soldiers have been killed. No further details are known at Hong Kong.

The Royal Canadian dragoons of Winnipeg have been ordered to prepare to move to the Yukon. They will form a part of the military expedition which the federal government contemplates sending to that part of the dominion.

Recent heavy contracts for Los Angeles petroleum made by producers at Los Angeles with San Francisco have encouraged the development of the oil fields there. Several wells have been put down since the first of the month and others are being sunk.

A Tehran dispatch says: The governor of the province of Kerman routed the insurgents at several points in Persian Belucistan. There were serious riots at Hamadan, February 22, due to a quarrel between partisans of rival priests, during which 27 priests were killed.

News was brought in to Salt Lake from Brown's Park, on the Colorado-Wyoming boundary line, that three members of the "Robbers' Roost" band of outlaws, who last week murdered Stockman Herr, had been captured and lynched by a posse of Herr's friends, and some of Sheriff Edgar's deputies.

The British sealers Anoka and Santiago, from Victoria, bound south, put into Monterey, Cal., to avoid a storm at sea. While five miles off Point Sur light on Saturday the Anoka lost two boats, containing four men, in a dense fog, and turned north to find them. Both boats landed safely near Point Sur.

An unknown man was shot in the leg by a mob near Princeton, Idaho. He fell, and, when called upon to surrender, fired a bullet into his left breast, missing the heart, and then, placing the revolver to the right side of his head, just above the ear, blew his brains out. He was suspected of being implicated in the murder of Dan Calland, a Tekoa rancher, and was being followed by a mob of men claiming to be deputy sheriffs from Whitman county.

Three Italian laborers were killed by a dirt cart which fell upon them while they were at work in the new East river bridge.

The Russian demands upon China have caused the greatest excitement at the Japanese legation in Peking, and the Japanese minister has had several interviews with officials of the Chinese foreign office, urging the rejection of the Russian demands. In addition, it is reported that Japan has threatened to take vigorous action if the demands of Russia are couched.

BOWERY MISSION FIRE.

Eleven Men Were Burned to Death in the Flames.

New York, March 15.—Eleven men lost their lives in the fire which swept the Bowery mission lodging-house this morning and left it a blackened shell. Their bodies are so charred that most of them may never be recognized. The dead are supposed to be:

Ellas Gaddy, 29 years old, address not known.

John Moran, Stapleton, S. L. McDermott, 29 years old, address not known.

James O'Rourke.

James Soden, of Spottwood, N. J. Six bodies unidentified.

No. 105 Bowery is one of the best-known lodging-houses on that thoroughfare. It is called the Bowery mission lodging-house, and is conducted by the Christian Herald. In one part of the building there is a cheap restaurant. The second floor is used exclusively for mission purposes, gospel meetings being held there daily. The two upper floors were fitted up as cheap lodgings, with accommodations for 150 males, who paid 10 to 25 cents each, according to the location of the room.

Last night almost every bed was occupied. At 1:30 o'clock this morning, one of the lodgers discovered flames coming from a washroom on the third floor, but before he had time to alarm the house, the fire was noticed by persons on the street. By this time the flames had eaten their way to the top of the building, and were bursting through the roof when the alarm was given and the inmates aroused. Wild scenes of excitement ensued. Many of the lodgers became panic-stricken. They rushed into the halls and fell over each other in their efforts to reach the streets. Those on the lower floors got to the streets safely by the stairways, while those on the upper floors groped their way through the blinding smoke to the fire escape in front of the building. A majority of them saved only portions of their clothing, while several of them were naked. Those who made their way to the streets by the fire escapes were superficially burned by the excessive heat of the iron ladders, which in many places had become red-hot from the flames within. The firemen saved many lives.

DOLE HOME AGAIN.

He Believes That Annexation Will Ultimately Succeed.

San Francisco, March 15.—The steamer China which left Hong Kong February 12 and Honolulu February 24, arrived today, bringing these Hawaiian advices:

President Dole returned to Honolulu the morning of the 4th. After a cabinet meeting held immediately upon his arrival he was interviewed by a press representative. He spoke very frankly on matters pertaining to his mission to Washington.

"Yes, I shall be very glad indeed to tell the people anything I may know relative to annexation," said the president. "The Maine disaster absorbed the attention of the statesmen in Washington previous to my departure for Hawaii. When that has quieted down interest in Hawaiian annexation will be paramount in congress. When I was in Washington I met many friends of Hawaii. They feel confident that annexation will come. While there was a doubt whether the treaty would secure the required political votes in the senate, still it was the consensus of opinion that a joint resolution would carry in both houses. I place much reliance in what was said to me by senators and representatives who are fighting for Hawaii, for I know them to be working faithfully and earnestly."

"What is Speaker Reed's attitude?"

"When I was in the American capital I learned that he has always opposed annexation, although he has made no demonstration against the treaty. My impression of President McKinley? Well, I will reply that it is extremely favorable. I found him to be an unassuming, frank and sterling man. He seems to have set his heart and soul on the annexation treaty."

"Our reception was extremely cordial and hospitable. All along the line and from Washington throngs of people came to see me. We shook hands, and in many instances I was obliged to speak briefly from the car platform. It was from these people that I gathered the impression that the addition of Hawaii was the popular sentiment throughout the land."

FEEDING THE CUBANS

America Doing What Spain Has Failed to Do.

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Senator Proctor Believes That the Maine Explosion Came From the Outside.

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Everyone is gratified to learn that a famous Catholic priest, who will not allow his name to be published, will give all the aid in his power to Consul-General Lee and Mr. Klopach, not only in Havana, where the suffering is much alleviated, but outside, where relief is most urgently needed.

The United States consuls at Matanzas and Sagua and the consular agents in other cities can be relied upon, it is believed, with the help of the local Spanish committees, to push forward the good work with all due speed. The need of relief supplies is practically undiminished, and there is no fear that the contributions already here or to come will not be properly used.

A correspondent at Matanzas says the governor has appointed a distribution committee. They secure his signature to orders for food, which is then delivered by United States Consul Brice from the warehouse. The local firemen see that food is delivered to the needy. They have been active in relief work hitherto, and have made a careful canvass from house to house.

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New Military Department.

The present department of Texas is abolished, and the headquarters, which have been at San Antonio, Tex., for so many years, are abandoned. In place of the old department is created a new one, the department of the South. General Graham, at present commander of the department of Texas, will command the new department. This department will include the states of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. All of the states, save the last, are at present attached to the department of the East, under command of General Merritt, of New York. It is said at the department that General Merritt is fully compensated for the strength of the command which has been taken from him, by the addition to his forces of the two regiments of artillery now in the hands of Headquarters of the new department of the South will be at Atlanta, chosen because of its fine strategic value and its excellent railroad connections. At present, the government has no accommodations in Atlanta for the headquarters of the department, so it will be obliged to hire the most available buildings.

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For the first time today the officials of the war department admitted that they were straining every nerve to improve that part of the defense of the country confined to their care.

The immediate purchase of a large number of rapid-firing guns for the sea coast defenses has been authorized by Secretary of War Alger. So urgent is the necessity for prompt action in this matter deemed that the allotment of the \$50,000,000 carried by the Cannon defense bill will not be awaited before making the purchases. Orders have been given to the various arsenals and armories controlled by the government to increase their working forces to their fullest extent in order to expedite the completion of existing projects.

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The governor declares that the constitution of Nebraska gives the legislature power to establish maximum charges for transportation, and declared that the supreme court has tried to abrogate it. He challenges Justice Harlan's declaration that a corporation is a person under the 14th amendment to the federal constitution, and says: "I deny it, and so will everybody, but a corporation lawyer or a subversive judicial tool of corporate interests."

Governor Leedy then quotes the 14th amendment, and says:

"How, in the name of God, can this apply to corporations? Corporations are not born; they are created—made by law. They cannot be naturalized; they can take no oath of allegiance; only human beings can do that."

After more in the same strain, the governor, still referring to the 14th amendment, says:

"Who are the persons who shall not, according to the provisions, be deprived of life, liberty or property, nor be denied equal legal protection? Everybody outside the asylum and of the judicial bench knows them to be—and to only be—natural persons. They are those who, beside the capacity to hold property and enjoy legal protection, also have life and can enjoy liberty, and that means human beings."

Continuing, the governor quotes "Here on American Constitutional Law," and a decision by Justice Woods, of the United States circuit court, afterward supreme court justice, to prove that the 14th amendment does not refer to corporations, and declares that the Woods decision had been followed in California, Rhode Island and other states from 1870 to 1883, "when Justice Field and another federal justice of the peace named Sawyer decided the other way, and since then, whenever a corporation starts out to commit highway robbery, pick a man's pocket, or loot a public treasury, it disguises itself as a 'person' and goes out on its mission of plunder. Nobody but a slave or a knave will yield assent to the hideous distortion of meaning which Judge Harlan gives to the word 'person,' as used in the 14th amendment, and upon which he bottoms his infamous decision, and which shows to what depths of iniquity the supreme court of the United States has descended."

"I desire," the governor said, "to quote some of the decisions of the supreme court of the United States before it went into partnership with Morgan, Vanderbilt, Gould & Co., in opposition to the opinion they hold in the Nebraska case." (Long decisions by Marshall in 1860 are quoted.)

In conclusion, Governor Leedy states that his maximum rate bill will be presented to the Kansas legislature, in such shape that to decide against it the court must reverse its decision in the Nebraska case, and he states that "if the court still pursues the corrupt and rotten practice that it has heretofore, by changing its decisions to suit the shifting interests of the railroad corporations," the remedy will be with the people in their dealings with the courts or in building railroads of their own.

In 1860 the manufactured product of St. Louis only amounted to \$27,000,000. Last year the output was about \$800,000,000.

SPURIOUS COINS IN PRISON.

Two Convicts at Folsom Are Caught in the Act of Counterfeiting.

Folsom, Cal., March 14.—A counterfeiting plant has been discovered within the walls of the state prison here. The work was done in the engine-room by Convicts L. H. Coyne and James Brown, and so far as known only nickels were coined, presumably because no precious metals could be obtained.

The men were discovered in the act of making bogus coins by guards, who had been told of what was going on. When the officers rushed in Coyne and Brown leaped through a window and threw their dies and crucible into a canal leading to the American river.

A large number of well-executed 5-cent pieces were found. They were made of Rabbitt metal, taken from the prison grounds to haul rock from the quarries. It is thought the dies were not made by the men who coined the money, but by some of the expert counterfeiters in the prison.

The impression prevails among the officers that it was the intention of the convicts to coin a great quantity of nickels and ship them out on the freight cars, where their friends on the outside could receive them in exchange for opium. Several of the bogus coins have been found in circulation in the town of Folsom.

WORK IN NAVY YARDS

Arming and Manning of the Merchant Marines.

Secretary Long was in receipt of a large number of cable messages today, almost all relating to offers of ships.

Lieutenant Niblock, United States naval attaché at Berlin, St. Petersburg and Vienna, is particularly active in quest of vessels.

There was a good deal of talk during the day about the assignment of officers to the command of auxiliary cruisers, the St. Paul and St. Louis being especially mentioned, but Secretary Long set these stories at rest by the statement that he had not made any such assignments, and had only progressed to the point of informing himself of the possibility of getting the ships officered and manned quickly.

While looking after new ships, the officials of the navy department are not neglecting the other vessels, and arrangements have been made to make short repairs on several ships that in the ordinary course would not be treated in that fashion, but would require an entire overhauling. Thus, in the case of the Philadelphia, which has had five years hard work, and has never yet been gone over, as is the custom, orders have gone to Mare Island to put her in shape for sea within 40 days. The Yorktown, at the same yards, is not to be touched at present, not only because she is in fair condition, but also because she is not so formidable a craft as to make it desirable to divert to her repair the attention required elsewhere. At Norfolk the Newark is set down for 80 days' repairs, and as a good deal of work has already been done on her, she will be almost a new ship when she comes out of the yards.

The big monitor Puritan has practically completed her repairs. The monitor Comanche at Mare Island has been examined and found in tolerable condition. At League Island the Monitor Miantonomah and the ram Katabadin went into commission today, although they have not yet received their orders. They will probably remain in the Delaware river or drop down into the bay. The torpedo boat Dupont sailed today from Mobile to attach herself again to the flotilla at Key West. Again it was said at the navy department that nothing had been heard from the court of inquiry at Havana, nor from Admiral Sillard at Key West.

The presence in the city of persons connected with steamship lines and steel works led to the circulation of a number of sensational stories during the day, but perhaps none of these had the persistency of one, which met summary denial at the hands of Assistant Secretary Day, to the effect that Minister Woodford had notified the Spanish government that the president intended sending to congress a message announcing his recognition of Cuban independence.

A conference was held at 9 o'clock in the office of Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, to map out plans for arming and equipping merchant vessels as auxiliary cruisers. This work, it is said, could be accomplished readily within two weeks' time, as all materials, except the guns, are on hand. The bureau of ordnance could not supply all the guns required within that short time, although some 70 or more are now available. The supply would be adequate, however, for the most effective auxiliary cruisers and the complete arming of the merchant ships could proceed as rapidly as possible thereafter.

As to the question of manning the auxiliary fleet, the navy department feels that the most effective step would be to enlist in the United States naval service the present merchant crews of the several ships. These crews are thoroughly familiar with the vessels, and could handle them with far greater effect than green crews of bluejackets. The ships would be officered from the line of the