

Edward Shieffelin who first discovered the tombstone mines of Arizona, has organized a party including himself, to make a thorough prospecting tour of the valley of the Yukon river, Alaska. A small light-draft stern-wheel steamer has been built for river navigation, and will be taken on the deck of a schooner chartered for the purpose. The expedition will leave in a few days. Shieffelin believes that Alaska is within the mineral belt which extends through South America, Mexico, the United States, British Columbia and as far north as the prospectors have explored, and, leaving Alaska unexplored, the mineral belt is disclosed again in Siberia. Mr. Shieffelin is a man of means and has acquired great wealth from his mining operations in Arizona. If his theory is correct, there is no doubt of his success.

Were it not for the promptness of the officers of the U. S. Land office at Colfax, the loss of records occasioned by the recent fire, might prove very serious. As it is, with the exception of cases acted upon since July 1st, the records can be almost wholly duplicated from the records of the general land office at Washington. The Register and Receiver have called upon all persons who have made Homestead and Timber Culture entries and Pre-emption filings, and all who have made final proof and entry under the pre-emption and homestead laws since July 1st, 1882, and have the Receiver's receipt therefor, to appear at their office or before the clerk of the court for the county in which the respective claims are situated, and substitute the papers and proof originally filed by them.

SQUATTER'S RIGHTS.—The *Saskatchewan Herald*, speaking of statements made by Sir John A. Macdonald, in the *Commons* of Canada, on the subject of the new land laws, says:—"It is further reported that settlers who have taken up lands in advance of the surveys will be allowed to retain them, notwithstanding that they may be on sections withheld from settlement under former regulations. These promises have given confidence to many who had previously been deterred from settling on unsurveyed land, through fear of losing their improvements, and a great many new farms are being opened up both here and elsewhere in the territories.

The *Sprague Herald*, published by Smallwood & Co., and edited by W. H. Smallwood, formerly register of the Vancouver land office, has made its appearance. It shows that a man of experience and more than ordinary editorial ability presides over its sanctum. The arrangement of matter is excellent. We welcome it to our table and wish it a deserved prosperity.

The Washington Steamboat and Transportation Company, with a capital stock of \$100,000, was incorporated at Utsalady on the 20th ult. The company is composed of a number of the solid men of Port Gamble and Utsalady.

A sub-committee of the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives, have reported a bill imposing a tax of ten cents per pound on oleomargarine and similar products.

The result of engineer Ward's surveys in the Yakima country for the N. P. R. R. line over the Cascade range is that many changes will be made in the Kingsbury survey made last summer. Both surveys pass the line near Yakima city.

There is no better country in the world for raising Angora goats than Snake river. They require no herding, never go off their range, and wild animals never attack them after their first experience.

Senator Plumb has reported favorably to the senate from the committee on public lands the bill for relief of homestead settlers on public lands. It provides that when a homestead entry has been made on unoccupied lands and settlers shall have improved the same in good faith for agricultural purposes, built houses and planted trees, or otherwise improved it in a suitable manner, and shall be compelled by sickness or necessity to labor for the support of a family to be absent for part of the time during the period of residence, he shall have the right to provide his bona fide occupation and improvement of land notwithstanding his absence and where a settler has settled upon and improved land and dies before the period of residence fixed by law expires, and family, or agent, or representative of the family continues to possess and improve the land, a patent shall be issued to the widow or the representative of the estate.

Houses and stores to rent are very scarce in Baker city, Eastern Oregon, although the supply does not equal the demand. Fifty new houses could be rented at once if erected.

Mr. Logan will oppose to the last any Congressional relief to Fitz John Porter, notwithstanding Gen. Grant's change of heart.

The only tariff legislation to be expected from the present Congress will be a reduction on sugar and Bessemer steel.

The steam plows recently brought from England have been thoroughly tested in Dakota and have proved a success. The plow is a "double ender," and at the end of the trip no turn is necessary, the beam being simply thrown over, bringing the other end with its six sharp edges, in contact with the soil.

MIXED FARMING.—In a discussion at a farmers club meeting in Chautauqua, New York, the president sensibly said: We cannot always follow the business that suits us best. I prefer grain raising; but on my farm I think there is more money in mixed farming. We need sheep to pasture our orchards and waste places on the farm; also the cows to eat the refuse fruit, and to keep up the condition of the soil. In raising fruit alone the soil would have to be kept good by fertilizing, which would be too expensive. Combine the three and when one fails we have the others to depend upon.

HOMELIKE.

It was a quiet, peaceful and homelike scene. They were talking of their neighbors in low and confidential tones, and her husband remarked: "Yes, Polly, you are right, those who believe others bad are generally bad at heart themselves."

"They are, eh?" she said eagerly, "there's that young chit, Miss Gossipton, that you danced with at the picnic, don't you think she's bad as bad can be?" and she looked through him like a search warrant, "How can I, after what I've just said?" he meekly replied.

"Well, I think she is, and you won't dare to say I'm bad at heart? If you do I'll brain you, d'ye hear?" and she reached for him, but he went out to see the sun sink behind the western hills.