

PORT ORFORD POST.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1880.

A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION LAW.

We believe Oregon is the only State in the whole Confederation of States in the American Union which does not exempt a family Homestead of greater or less value from the hammer of the Sheriff at the suit of the remorseless creditor. We are all creditors and all debtors, and should, therefore, agree upon and require a common guarantee against absolute distress as the result of financial reverses and the mutations of fortune always liable to beset even the most prudent and sagacious household. Civilized habits of life entail mutual dependence and mutual responsibilities among men. There can be no line conceived of, permanently separating a creditor and debtor class. Hence, a Homestead exemption statute can suggest no injustice, nor yet discrimination against or for anyone. It is manifestly the interest of the creditor and debtor alike that a safeguard be thrown around the homes of the people which shall fortify that sacred spot against the touch of the legal despoiler. Individual prosperity in life contributes to the aggregate success of the whole.

Let almost any given creditor candidly consider the question of an ample Homestead exemption law in the light of his own experience, and he will concede the point that it were better that the law should except the spot called Home from the operation of the statutes governing collections. So long as a man has his home secure from seizure throughout all his vicissitudes of fortune, he has a nucleus, a starting point, a something tangible to impart courage and resolution in his struggles against adverse fortune, and the possibilities always favor the hope that he will finally "work out." But let this hope of the household be laid waste, mayhap in the interest of a single creditor, all other creditors may pretty safely calculate that the victim of so unjust a statute will become the impersonation of chronic irresponsibility and insolvency.

Let the law vouchsafe the guarantee that the Homestead shall be privileged from execution, and families will be encouraged to acquire, improve, beautify and adorn a spot they may always call their own, no matter what else may betide.

Aside from the principle of abstract justice involved, there is a humanitarian aspect to the case. The wife and little ones are seldom or never blamable or in any way responsible for the bad luck or what not which wrought the

inability of the husband and father to meet his legal obligations. It were a species of legal robbery, then, for the roof from over their heads to be sold under the ruthless mandate of the law, and they sent forth semi-paupers, from which condition not a few may, by gradual process, develop into criminals.

Let us hope that our Legislature to convene in September will break the spell of Oregon's singularity in the respect of a Homestead exemption, and give the people a law which shall protect all alike in the enjoyment of such a plot of God's earth as they may acquire and select, not to exceed of course a reasonable limit. It would be justice, economy, and humanity.

BEN HOLLADAY--HIS TRICKS THAT ARE VAIN.

Ever since the collapse of the great promoter of fraud, prodigality and licentiousness—Ben Holladay—in this State, he has laid siege to Congress at the back of a trumped up claim for horses captured from him by Indians on the plains while he was running the Pony Express under a large subsidy from the Government, between Atchison, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.

Though personally a bankrupt, Holladay had managed, prior to his advent in Oregon, to control a comparatively immense business comprising a monopoly of steamer freights and fares between Portland and San Francisco. During the whole of his somewhat remarkable career, the thought of the prosecuting of a legitimate enterprise seems never to have entered his head. He had succeeded beyond all of his competitors in the carrying business for the Government on the overland route between the Missouri river and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Then he made a hit in the Pony Express line; then in the Overland Stage line, when, finally closing out said line to Wells, Fargo & Co., for a magnificent sum, he embarked in the ocean steamer business and apparently succeeded in that. But when he branched out in the business of railroad building in Oregon he had touched water too deep for his capacity. It was his methods that floored him in this last venture. He employed Milton S. Latham at a ruinous commission to place the bonds of the Oregon and California Railroad Company, in Germany. With the proceeds of this negotiation, his chief effort was to corrupt right and left. He plunged into politics, supporting with every corrupt appliance at his command, the party likely to do him the most good. Though a lifelong Democrat, he gave the Republican party his unqualified support. He wanted subsidies, gratuities, special immunities and so on to the end. He levied tribute right and left, and so signal was his success at the beginning, that he boasted of his ability to carry Oregon in his vest pocket. Just at this point the great lobbyist was

brought up on the round turn by Governor Grover's veto of his Portland \$300,000 scheme, which he had, with consummate tact, worried through both branches of the Legislature.

The Portland scheme was to be the forerunner of a series of local subsidies and special grants he had in view. But so emphatic was Governor Grover's veto, and so exhaustive his reasoning that no further hope was left in the direction of legislative gratuities; and this was the beginning of the end. Instead of building and equipping railroads with the proceeds of his loan, he squandered them in illegitimate attempts to capture the State and lay all her interests prone at his feet. During the year and a half succeeding the date of his Portland fiasco, the German bondholders had gobbled up not only his steamship line, but his railroads as well, and Ben Holladay was known no more in these enterprises.

As a last effort to recuperate a fortune dissipated as above, Holladay betook himself to Washington, and has devoted himself with pertinacity ever since to his half million dollar "relief" Bill for ponies stolen on the plains, and had succeeded, during the last session of Republican ascendancy in the U. S. Senate, in getting a favorable report of the 'claims' Committee for the whole amount asked for, if we remember correctly. The final struggle will come off the coming Winter, the consideration of the bill being deferred until December.

The champions of bayonet rule at elections contend that the same is necessary to protect the negroes in their right to vote. If this is so, bayonet rule must be a sort of protection that does not protect. According to the claim of these same bayonet rulers elections at the South are farces. If Supervisors, Marshals and deputy Marshals are only necessary to guarantee a fair vote at the South, why don't they do their duty? Bayonet rule is a farce.

Mr. Brooks of New York, editor of the New York Express, was the only Democratic member of Congress that fell down before Credit Mobilier shares. He confessed to having the stock and defended his right to have earned the same by editorial service in the columns of his paper. But, like Kelly of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Garfield, it is probable that he voted in Congress to shuffle a first mortgage off for a second one, on the Union Pacific Railroad.

Judge Deady's finding as referee in the case of Grover and his co-State officers, fails to sustain the much vaunted report of the Galloway Committee, and completely negatives the charges so recklessly made against Grover's second administration. Judge Deady finds a discrepancy in the school land account which seems to have been the result of incompetency in the keeping of the accounts of the department.

STATE SCHOOL FUND APPORTIONMENT.

The School Land Commissioners at Salem, distributed, July 20, 1880, \$45,903 55 among 59,615 children in the State of school age. This gives 77 cents to each child. The apportionment by counties, results:

COUNTIES	CHILDREN	SUMS.
Baker.....	1126	\$ 867 02
Benton.....	2387	1837 99
Clackamas.....	3670	2835 90
Clatsop.....	878	676 06
Columbia.....	733	564 41
Coos.....	1824	1404 48
Curry.....	452	348 04
Douglas.....	3782	2912 14
Grant.....	1030	793 10
Jackson.....	3139	2417 03
Josephine.....	753	587 51
Lake.....	863	664 51
Lane.....	3952	3043 03
Linn.....	5377	4140 29
Marion.....	5494	4230 38
Multnomah.....	6969	5366 13
Polk.....	2540	1955 80
Tillamook.....	352	271 04
Union.....	2610	2009 70
Umatilla.....	3733	2874 41
Wasco.....	2234	1720 18
Washington.....	2764	2128 28
Yamhill.....	2043	2266 11

Total.....59,615 \$45,903 55

EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS.

The Sultan of Turkey manifests his readiness to abdicate.

No less than forty divorcees were granted at the term of the Circuit Court just closed at Portland.

The S. F. Chronicle is fighting over the war of the rebellion during the present campaign. Dry work.

The wheat yield of California this year is estimated at 50,000,000 bushels. This yield allows of an export of 1,000,000 tons.

The new Charter of San Francisco provides for supplying the primary schools of the city with text books at public expense. This is correct.

The Chronicle thinks San Francisco has been bilked out of a considerable margin of population through the inefficiency of her census enumerators.

A son of ex-United States Senator Christiancy has been, at his own request, placed in an Inebriate Asylum. He says his inclination to excessive indulgence is overpowering.

And now a monkey commits suicide, near Goldsboro, North Carolina. The man, says Darwin, sprang from the monkey; and now comes his monkeyship and imitates his progeny by committing a fashionable suicide.

A desperate character in Arkansas, pursued by a Sheriff's posse, killed two of the latter before he was captured. The second victim was shot through the head by the culprit after he had been fatally wounded himself.

A young girl was abducted and outraged by a number of attaches of a circus performing at Pittsburgh, Pa., and, finally escaping from them, attempted to get back home but was overtaken by five of the brutes and taken into the woods. Great excitement was created, and the whole circus company was arrested after the poor girl was found.

The principal faction of the Workingmen's party in California, has nominated Mr. Berry, present incumbent, for Congress in the 3d district. The Greenback faction is split into two opposing (Kearney and anti-Kearney) factions, each of which has its candidate for Congress in the said 3d district.

The owner of ground, or more properly sand, on which the Sand Lot rostrum has stood for a couple of years, comes to the front with a demand for \$20 per month rent in the future. The "forum" was therefore carried back and anchored on an unused street in front of the new City Hall grounds.

The Virginia Readjusters, a party in that State largely composed of Republicans, endorse Hancock. The anti-Readjusters party is wholly Democratic. The Readjusters are now styled "Repudiators" in some quarters.

Mercantile Maxims.

The way to get credit is to be punctual. The way to preserve it, is not to use it much.

Settle often; have short accounts. Trust no man's appearances—they are deceptive—perhaps assumed for the purpose of obtaining credit. Beware of a gaudy exterior. Rogues usually dress well. The rich are plain men. Trust him, if any one, who carries but little on his back. Never trust him who flies into a passion on being dunned; make him pay quickly if there be any virtue in the law.

Be well satisfied before you give a credit, that those to whom you give it are safe men to be trusted. Sell your goods at a small advance, and never misrepresent them; for those once deceived will beware of you the second time. Deal uprightly with all men, and they will repose confidence in you, and soon become your permanent customers.

Trust no stranger. Your goods are better than doubtful charges. What is character worth if you make it cheap by crediting all alike? Agree beforehand with every man about to do a job, and if large, put it into writing. If any decline this, quit or be cheated.

Though you want a job ever so bad, make all sure at the outset; and in a case at all doubtful, make sure of a guarantee. Be not afraid to ask it; it is the best test of responsibility; for, if offence be taken, you have escaped a loss.—Maxims of a Retired Merchant.

Judge Freeman, Assistant Attorney General for the Postoffice Department, has decided that where third or fourth-class mail matter is deposited in the postoffice insufficiently prepaid, or where first class matter is deposited without one full rate, the postmaster should not forward it; but if by inadvertence it is forwarded, the postmaster at the office of delivery should only collect the postage remaining unpaid. He also decides that if first, third or fourth-class matter be deposited in the postoffice without any prepayment, it should be held; but if forwarded, by mistake, the amount collected upon delivery should be double the postage which should have been prepaid.

Dr. Farrar of Brooklyn, says that not less than half a ton of pure gold, worth half a million of dollars, is annually packed into people's teeth in the United States, and that at this rate all the gold in circulation will be buried in the earth in 300 years.