

PORT ORFORD POST.

VOL. I.

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THE POST.

J. H. UPTON & SON, Proprietors.

Published Every Thursday,

...AT...

PORT ORFORD, CURRY CO., OR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year.....\$2.00
Six Months.....1.25
Three Months......75

ADVERTISING RATES REASONABLE.

L. P. FISHER, Advertising Agent, 21 Merchant's Exchange, San Francisco, is authorized to receive advertisements for the columns of this paper.

A Through Road to the Valley.

Means of ingress and egress are a prime necessity to the progress of any country and of all localities. We cannot expect accessions to our population if there are no means of coming. It is more population—vastly more—which is one of Curry county's great needs. But how are we to be approached from the outside world? Other than by steamer or sail craft we have no adequate outlet or inlet. A wagon road to connect the Umpqua valley with us would work wonders, so to speak. Scores of families would seek homes in the county if we were connected by wagon road with the great system of such roads which accommodate inland travel in other portions of the State. In the matter of through outlets by wagon, Coos and Curry counties are singular. Coos is a trifle better fixed in this respect than Curry, but not much if we except the Coquille region. We are told that a road is building or will be built in the direction of Floras creek from Myrtle Point. We have a good road to Floras creek, and Myrtle Point has a through route open for wagons to Roseburg. Let Curry county close up the gap—whatever that may be—between roads now open at this end and the Myrtle Point road. The subject is worthy the thoughtful consideration of our enterprising people.

The First.

In March, 1543, Bortholomew Ferrelo, a Spanish explorer sailed into Port Orford and on up the Coast to latitude 43—just above Cape Blanco—when he turned back in consequence of being ill provided for a cruise in so high a latitude. He is supposed to have been the first white man to set foot on Oregon territory. Sir Francis Drake came up to about the same point in 1579.

See fourth page for additional local and editorial matter this week.

Syrup by the keg or gallon at Bates and Johnson's.

"Sheep Inspector."

Under a law of the late Legislature, it becomes incumbent upon the County Court of the several counties respectively to designate and appoint a suitable person to the office of "Sheep Inspector" for the county. Curry county ranks among the counties of the first importance in this behalf. At the late term of our County Court some hitch occurred that prevented the appointment for this county at that term, and an order was passed referring the choice to the sheep men of the county who may signify their several preferences by means of petitions. S. B. Gardner of Rogue river, and Sol. Culver of Floras creek were prominent before the Court for the position and each will go before the Court at the April term with his list when the longest pole will fetch the persimmons. Not having the law creating this new office of "trust and profit" before us, we are unable to even hint at the compensation involved, or the scope of the responsibilities entailed. We shall publish the Act as soon as received.

Reinstated in the Court House.

The county archives, furniture, etc., have been replaced back in the old Court House from where they were taken last Winter to occupy Judge Woodruff's warehouse on the city front. Mr. Gauntlett, to whom the county property fell in the general exchange has redeeded the same to the county in pursuance of a decree of Judge Watson in the premises. Under the same decree the county should have at once reconveyed the warehouse property to Gauntlett, but this, we are informed, has not been done. When this is done, and Judge Woodruff refunds to the county the \$800 paid him for the warehouse, as also costs and damages, the contemplated statu quo will be complete.

Pardoned by the President.

W. H. Cooper, sent up from Curry county about four years since for counterfeiting two-and-a-half gold coins, has been pardoned by the President and restored to his place as one of the sovereigns of the land. Cooper left at his place across Sixes river a perpetual reminder of his past existence in the shape of a knock-kneed mule, which has been in active service ever since his forlorn departure.

The mail from here to Bandon failed to get through Tuesday, returning to this place in the afternoon, on account of the swollen state of the streams.

After several days of calm, fine weather, the storm sat in in good earnest again Monday.

HERIOT ADVENTURERS.

Searching for Port Orford under Difficulties.

In 1853, having heard of Port Orford as a place of future promise, Col. Samuel C. Hall, Col. Thomas Johnson, Henry Matheny and George See, outfitted themselves at Yreka with a saddle mule each and a pack mule for the party in common, and struck out for Grave creek, Jackson county, at that time the out-post of discovery in this direction. From here they struck out across the untracked mountain ranges with no guide save the intuitive knowledge of courses common to the frontiersman. They had heard that Port Orford was just south of a considerable water course which emptied into the ocean. In their ramblings they struck Rogue river at a point where it wended its tortuous way down through deep, dismal gorges, and thought it to be the stream they were looking for. About this time they came upon a small band of Indians, and engaged four of the "red devils" to pilot them through to this place. The first night out they camped on a considerable elevation flanked on either side by a deep, dark, forbidding gorge. The Indians seemed in good faith, and, supper over, they all stretched themselves out and feigned deep slumber. The party retired, leaving Matheny on guard. Pretty soon the spokesman crawled out of his blanket and sat by the fire watching attentively the operation of Matheny cleaning his pistol. (A "pepper-box!") The Indian requested to examine the weapon, which was handed him, and in his rude way seemed to make sport of the thing. Next, Matheny proceeded to clean his gun. The buck passed back the pistol, and, reaching for the ramrod, took it up and went through the manual of musket drill with it to the great amusement of Matheny, who sat by the fire drying his buckskin pants. Pretty soon Mr. Indian walked deliberately up to the tree where sat the rifle just cleaned, and, setting the ramrod down, took up the gun. He stepped across, putting the fire between himself and Matheny and renewed the drill with the gun. Pretty soon he brought the piece to bear in the act of "Make Ready! Take Aim! Fire!" and bang she went, just missing Matheny, and then Col. Hall's head. All four of the red skins scooted down the hillside immediately, taking the gun, camp ax and a drawing knife with them. There was consternation in that little camp for a while then. The party resumed their journey next morning and, after much hardship and wandering about, came in sight of

the ocean from some point on Euchre creek. They wandered from there over to Mussel creek, quite back in the mountains, where from a high point, Col. Johnson discovered signs of habitations at Port Orford. They came straight in, hungry, tired, destitute and disgusted. The party were 35 days on their journey, seventeen of them spent between Port Orford and Rogue river. Col. Johnson, of the firm of Bates & Johnson, is the only one of the little band of adventurers who started from Yreka in quest of fortunes just 28 years ago, now living. Col. Hall went East from here, and returned with his family to Crescent City, where he died not many years ago. Matheny went East and died, and See died in this place. The entire trip made by the above four prospectors can be now made in fewer hours than they were days accomplishing it.

Bills Allowed.

The total of bills audited at the late term of the County Court was \$1009 49. Every county in Oregon except Curry, designates some paper in which financial exhibits are published every six months and paid for. The law requires that county financial exhibits shall somehow be made public, so that the people may see in detail what moneys are paid out and for what purpose.

Streams Booming.

Elk and Sixes rivers and Floras creek are swollen by the present storm quite above any point reached heretofore the present season. We suppose Rogue river and the other streams putting into the ocean below that stream are also booming. These streams generally run down shortly after the storm ceases.

Our old friend Himes the printer, has remembered us with a very neatly executed, artistic combination calendar for 1881, gotten up at his job printing establishment at Portland. Geo. H. furnishes a living illustration of what energy and perseverance can accomplish in building up a business.

Why don't some of the Coos Bay mill men reach out for contracts to furnish telegraph poles for consumption out in the valley and in Eastern Oregon? In this way they could work off their inferior cedar.

Justice of the Peace Tower held Moore, one of the rioters in Empire City, in \$300 bonds for malicious injury to property—smashing up the stove factory and demolishing Kiley's building.

The rain Tuesday was the fiercest of the season so far.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ELLENSBURG, Jan. 6, 1881.

EDITOR POST.—In these beautiful sunshiny days that have followed after so many long weeks of stormy weather, one can scarcely stay indoors at all.

The Ester Cobos came into port last Sunday without any inconvenience or trouble about crossing the bar, and is now loaded with fish and lumber ready to sail for San Francisco. The new steamer will soon be launched and finished off and sent out upon the briny deep laden with freight and passengers from Ellensburg to San Francisco. The new cottages are all nearly finished and will be occupied as soon as practicable.

Sunday, January 2d, Mr. Chas. Finely and Miss Carrie Woodruff were married at the residence of the bride's father, Lyman Woodruff, Esq. The bride who is good and beautiful at all times, surpassed herself, if possible, in loveliness when dressed in the beautiful white bridal draperies worn on the occasion. Miss Cora, sister of the bride acted as bridesmaid, and I. W. Miller, groomsmen. Miss Cora was appropriately dressed and looked handsome and nice, but as saucy as ever. The bridegroom and groomsmen were both appropriately dressed for the occasion and looked—but it's no difference how they looked, as no one ever cares how the gentlemen look on such an occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff who never do things by halves had prepared a bountiful feast for the guests and both exerted themselves to make things agreeable for all and succeeded admirably well. Bachelors and girls took home each a piece of wedding cake to dream upon and let us hope their dreams were all pleasant ones and will come true. Mr. and Mrs. Finely have the good will and best wishes of all for their future welfare.

Speaking of weddings remind us that Dame Rumor says that some of our prominent bachelors are going off on the new steamer to get married to some fair lady in distant parts: well, all we can say is that if it is so, we think they could have done better nearer home, but "what's our gain is"—no, "what's our loss is their gain."

JOHN JONES.

Sudden Freshet.

The freshet caused by the rain storm of the last few days has been something immense. The logdam at the mill was washed out, and some small structures in the vicinity were started from their foundations. Joe Nay's place was inundated and one of his hay barns was moved from its place and lodged against a tree. Joel Bond's place was one grand sheet of water.

In the Supreme Court.

The Court House-Woodruff case having been appealed to the Supreme Court, will probably be decided during the January term of that Court.

Mr. McKenzie can ply the trowel dexterously enough to run up a neat, artistic brick chimney. He did a job of the sort for himself last week.

Gen. Grant was at one time stationed at Big Bend in this county.