

Oregon City Courier.

A. W. CHENEY, Publisher.

OREGON CITY.....OREGON

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Interesting Collection of Current Events
In Condensed Form From
Both Continents.

Political excitement is intense in Brazil and martial law is in force.

Koon Sang, a Chinese priest, was killed by highbinders in San Francisco.

J. R. Sovereign, the recently retired master workman of the Knights of Labor, has declared his intention to run for president of the United States in 1900.

The blue and gray have met again on common ground. Military triumphs were honored at Orchard Knob, Tenn., Monday, and monuments to the achievements at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge accepted.

Secretary Alger has requested the secretary of the interior to instruct Alaskan officials to gather about 800 head of reindeer from the government herds for use of an expedition for the relief of the icebound whalers in the Arctic. It is expected that the Bear, which is now at Seattle, will be ready to sail in about ten days.

A. J. Sage, a well-known rancher, living a few miles below Sand Point, Idaho, was shot and instantly killed while out hunting. An old acquaintance, named John Snyder, who went with him hunting, and who became separated from him for a short time, seeing what he supposed to be a deer moving among the trees, fired at it, and upon reaching the spot was horrified to find that he had shot his friend dead.

Rev. Myron W. Reed, pastor of one of Denver's leading churches, during his discourse Sunday created somewhat of a sensation while discussing the killing of the Ute Indians by deputy game wardens in Colorado recently, by declaring that he intended to see that Warden Wilcox and his deputies are tried for murder. He also denounced the preachers who have remained silent in the matter.

Fifty-two families have arrived in North Yakima, Wash., from Polk county, Minnesota, to make new homes. Many have already selected lands along the Yakima valley canal, west of the city, and others will locate in the vicinity of the Moxee artesian wells. The colony is made up almost wholly of French people, and they will be the means of bringing many more settlers to Yakima county if their experience proves satisfactory.

The state supreme court of Montana has sustained the constitutionality of the inheritance law passed by the last legislature. The law imposes a tax of 5 per cent on bequests to any beneficiary, not a relative, where the estate amounts to over \$100. The tax on estates directly inherited, where the value of the estate is over \$7,500, is 1 per cent. It is estimated that the decision will yield the state \$40,000 from estates already in process of settlement.

The Wyoming supreme court has decided that foreign-born citizens must be required to read the constitution in the English language in order to vote. One hundred and fifteen Finns, who voted the Republican ticket at the recent election in that state, could not read the constitution in English, but their votes were accepted, as they could read it in their own language. The decision will put the Democratic candidate in office, and settles an important constitutional question.

The labor troubles which have been brewing in Randsburg, Cal., for some time culminated Wednesday, when about 100 members of the miners' union went in a body to the Roxie mine and summarily drove superintendent Clarke and five men out of the camp for working below the schedule of the union.

A new industry has started in Owensboro, Ky., with 100 employees. It is to utilize cornstalk cellulose for lining battleships. Materials for making an imitation of silk and for making celluloid are among the products. Paper is another product. W. W. Gibbs, of Philadelphia, is president, and the stockholders are Easterners.

The owners of the German ship Potrimpos, stranded at Long Beach, Wash., have bought two 10,000-pound anchors of the United States warship Vandalia, which was wrecked at Samoa several years ago, and will ship them from San Francisco at once, for use in floating the Potrimpos next month. It is expected that the ship will be put into deep water in less than a month.

A remonstrance against allowing Chinese coal miners to be imported into the state for the purpose of mining coal at Wilmington and other towns in place of the striking miners, will be placed before Governor Tanner in the name of the United Mineworkers of Illinois. The governor will also be asked to co-operate with the secretary of the miners' federation in keeping out the coolie labor. Secretary Ryan says if the Chinese come bloodshed will surely result. If Governor Tanner refuses to interfere President McKinley will be appealed to.

Consul Duester, at Crefeld, Germany, reports to the state department at Washington a discovery made there which it is said revolutionizes the methods of illumination. It is an incandescent gas lamp. Single jets of ordinary size can emit a light of much more than 1,000 candlepower, and fine print can be read at a distance of 100 feet. The inventor says the cost for a light of 1,500 candlepower is only 4½ cents per hour, while that for an ordinary electric light of 40 candlepower is 14 cents per hour.

FOUGHT LIKE HEROES.

Gordon Highlanders Great Charge at Dargai Ridge.

London, Nov. 17.—The newspapers of this city have received graphic details by mail of the recapture of Dargai ridge by the Gordon Highlanders, on October 20, during which the regiment exhibited remarkable dash and courage. On Wednesday, October 20, General Biggs sent the second division to dislodge the tribesmen from the Dargai ridge. The position was a very strong one, the enemy occupying the summit of a precipitous hill. The top of the hill could not be reached except by a single path along which the attacking force, first consisting of a Ghorka regiment, the Derbyshire regiment, and the Dorsetshire regiment, were obliged to climb in Indian file, while three batteries shelled the breastworks of the hillmen.

Dargai ridge, from the direction of the assault, presents a frontage of about a mile, the left end of which is sheer rock for 200 yards. In spite of the difficulty of the ascent, the movements of the British troops were fairly well covered, except in the case of a low dip, or small valley, from 100 to 150 yards wide about half way from the summit of the cliff.

As the Ghorkas, supported by the Derbys and Dorsets, reached this fire zone, the tops of the cliffs burst out into flame, for 1,000 tribesmen had reserved their fire until that moment. Though decimated, the Ghorkas struggled across the dip and reached the shelter of a few rocks, where they lay down under cover of the cliffs. But the others could not follow, and the enemy, with true military instinct, reserved their fire.

Though the remainder of the Ghorkas, the Derbys and the Dorsets appeared on the fringe of the dip, yet to step into the fire zone was to court death. But the Dorsets again tried to advance to the support of the Ghorkas, and 13 men struggled into the open space, only to drop before the far side had even been reached. Then, reluctantly, the senior officer signalled down to the main body of the British that the passage could not be made.

At this juncture General Kempster ordered the Gordon Highlanders to the front. The time had arrived for desperate action, for it was then 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the dead and wounded were lying thick on every side. But the Gordon Highlanders had yet to be reckoned with. Rapidly forming his men and after his now historic speech—"Men of the Gordon Highlanders, our general says that that position must be taken at all costs." The Gordon Highlanders will take it!—Colonel Matthias, commander of the Highlanders, dashed out at the head of his gallant regiment, and in a moment they were across, carrying everyone with them in their onward rush, storming the ridge with a resolution that was irresistible. When Colonel Matthias led them into the open, the pipe following, striking up "Cock of the North," and with a shout the leading company was into the fire zone. A stream of lead swept over, through and past, the bullets churning up the dust which half hid the rushing bodies.

Piper Findlater, blowing his loudest and best, was among the first to show the way across that deadly stretch of ground, and when, after traversing but a few yards he was laid low by a shot through both legs, he managed to prop himself and continued, with unabated energy, to play "Cock of the North," animating his comrades by the familiar, stirring music of his pipes. But the fire of the enemy was most deadly, the leading line men melting away, and it seemed that the Gordon Highlanders would be annihilated. More men, however, sprang into the passage and the leaders struggled across the center.

Then, with a second cheer, the troops streamed across and the enemy, seeing that the barrier had been swept away, left their loopholes and fled precipitately.

Piper Findlater has been recommended for the Victoria cross. Captain Robinson, of the Ghorkas, also acted with the greatest gallantry. After leading his men across the fire zone to cover, and finding it insufficient, he returned over the death trap alone, and was mortally wounded while leading the second rush of Ghorkas.

NOT ONE ESCAPED.

Bad Accident to a Russian Wedding Party.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 17.—A terrible accident has occurred near Bielostok, Russian Poland, resulting in the death of 30 persons. A wedding party was returning from the church to the house of the bride. All were in one wagon, a huge vehicle, drawn by eight horses. The road along which they drove crossed the railway track on the level, and the driver, either through carelessness or ignorance of the train schedule, pushed his swiftly moving horses upon the crossing, just as the express was coming up. The locomotive struck the vehicle squarely, killing many members of the party outright and maiming others so that they soon expired in frightful agony. Not a member of the party escaped.

Rear Admiral Alexander Golden Rhind, U. S. N., is dead at his home in New York city. He had been confined to his bed for five weeks.

Guerra Is Safe.

Washington, Nov. 17.—The state department has finally refused the application of the government of Mexico for surrender under extradition proceedings of Jesus Guerra, who was one of Garza's lieutenants in his attempted revolution some years ago.

One of the lazy farmers of Utica, Neb., has a rocking chair attachment connected with his harvesting machinery.

CIVIL SERVICE LAW

Strong Effort Will Be Made to Secure Its Repeal.

OPPOSITION IN WEST AND SOUTH

Sufficient Number of Senators and Representatives Pledged to Insure Its Abolition.

Washington, Nov. 16.—A strong effort will be made during the coming session of congress to secure the repeal of the civil-service law. The supporters of this movement say that they have had promises from a sufficient number of senators and representatives to co-operate with them to insure its success, provided that all those members who have heretofore favored the repeal are still of the same mind.

Thomas R. McKee, the journal clerk of the house of representatives, who has long been a bitter opponent of the existing law, and who has taken pains to ascertain the views of many of the members on the subject, said today that he was confident that if the opportunity offered for a direct vote on the question of repeal, it would be carried by a large majority.

"While it is not true," said he, "that I have been engaged in making a canvass of the house on this matter, it is true that I have talked with a great many members about it. I am convinced that for such a proposition my own state of Indiana would give its entire 13 votes, and I believe that Ohio and Illinois are just as much opposed to the law. As for the Western states I do not believe that they will furnish a single vote for the retention of the system, and in the South, both Democrats and Republicans, with only a few isolated exceptions, would welcome its abolition. It is purely an Eastern institution, and it is entirely unrepresentative and un-American."

"It was originated by the college professors and educators of the East, especially of New England, the center of our educational system, for the express purpose of providing easy and comfortable berths for such of the students as were not physically able to stand the strain of the professional life for which they were trained, or who found the professional ranks already well filled. The manufacture of college graduates went on so fast that it became necessary for the professors to find some outlet for the young men whom they were turning into the crowded fields of law, medicine and theology. So they turned to the government and, with Dorman B. Eaton at their head, himself a life-long educator, induced it to require of applicants for government positions a preliminary examination, which, in many cases, they knew only men fresh from the college could pass successfully."

"It is a fact that President McKinley is now having as much trouble in satisfactorily filling the 300 or so places he has to give away as Grant did to dispose of 200,000 places. There is almost as much eagerness and strife around the White House today over little \$600 position as there used to be over the appointment of the minister to Germany. This shows that the desire for office is still as strong, and it is a natural desire. Representative Grosvenor made a strong point when he said in his speech that the right of a man to participate in the affairs of the government in other ways than by merely casting his ballot was one that could not be constitutionally taken away from him. The heads of the government department should have the right to make the appointments of their subordinates, and they should be held responsible for their actions. The president would then have less of his time wasted on small matters of patronage, and after filling the larger and more important offices would then be able to devote himself to affairs of state."

"That there is a strong sentiment in the country at large in favor of the repeal of the law I am sure, and I am satisfied, also confident, that the sentiment will find expression in congress during the coming session. The only recent vote that has been had upon the subject which gives any foundation upon which to base a calculation as to the result, was had towards the close of the last session of the 54th congress. A proposition was made by Mr. Brosius, of Pennsylvania, to extend the operations of the civil service law in a certain particular. The question was as to the consideration of the bill, and it was defeated by a two-thirds majority. While this was not a direct vote it afforded an indication, if not of the strength of the repeal movement, at least of the weakness of the supporters of the civil service system."

"It is my opinion that if nothing else is done, the civil service commission will be abolished with all of its cumbersome machinery. In its stead a departmental examination to determine the fitness of applicants for appointment in the government service will be substituted. This would be very proper, so far as the Washington departments are concerned, but I would not require even this in offices outside of Washington, and I would limit all office-holding tenures to four years each. The civil service commission costs the people now \$150,000 a year."

A number of others have spoken in a similar strain recently.

Confessed to Drowning His Child.

Kansas City, Nov. 18.—At Livesley, Mo., the trial of William Carr, who confessed to drowning his 3-year-old daughter in the Missouri river, was begun today. No defense was attempted, the lawyer appointed by the court urging that the state hasten the prisoner's fate. Judge Broadus reserved his decision.

ANNEXATION HER HOPE.

Hawaii Axioms to Have the Pending Treaty Adopted.

New York, Nov. 17.—A dispatch to the World from Honolulu, dated October 28, says: "Sanford B. Dole, president of the provisional republic of Hawaii, and Chief Justice Judd are anxious to have the Hawaiian annexation treaty adopted as soon as possible. Said President Dole to the correspondent:

"The people will never again submit to a monarchy. In fact, there is no one sufficiently enjoying the confidence of the people of the islands to conduct the affairs of state under a monarchy."

"Why do they not desire to continue as an independent republic?" he was asked.

"As the islands are so far away from other countries, and as the Asiatic population is fast increasing in numbers, it is a serious question if they are left alone whether the republic could survive with the willing consent of the foreigners. Besides, if the United States has constantly to protect the islands under the government at present, why should not the United States take them altogether?

"This is a great country for commerce. It is the natural land for American ownership. To all intents and purposes it is an American colony, anyway, so far as business, capital and industry is concerned, and it should be a part of the body politic of the United States."

Chief Justice Judd said in an interview:

"During the reign of King Kalakaua there were two cabinets, so dissatisfied was the state of the kingdom. The only branch of the government that was not disturbed was the judiciary. The restoration of the monarchy is an impossibility. There is no material to make a monarch of."

"Nor can we hope to maintain a republic independently. We must look to the United States. We have come to the turning point, and we must either become Asiatic or Anglo-Saxon; we are within the zone of American influence, and to assume responsibility for us, they ought to have something to say about how our affairs are directed."

The news that has reached here from San Francisco that Samuel Parker, a prominent native leader, and heretofore a strong royalist, has declared in favor of annexation, has created quite a sensation among the natives, who are still opposed to annexation.

RELIEF FOR WHALERS.

A Reindeer Train Will Go Overland to Point Barrow.

Washington, Nov. 17.—Secretary Alger has requested the secretary of the interior to instruct Alaskan officials to gather about 800 head of reindeer from the government herds for use of an expedition for the relief of the icebound whalers in the Arctic.

It is expected that the Bear, which is now at Seattle, will be ready to sail in about 10 days, and within 20 days thereafter will reach some point on the northern sound, where a large party will be engaged for the trip overland to Point Barrow.

The herd of reindeer which will be killed for food, if needed, will be driven overland, and it is confidently expected that the herd will reach Point Barrow and the imprisoned whalers before the middle of February.

The country through which the herd will be driven is said to abound with moss, upon which the herd will feed.

It is said the scheme for the relief of the whalers is perfectly feasible and will be attended with little danger. No apprehension is felt regarding the outcome of the enterprise.

A Valuable Discovery.

New York, Nov. 17.—William A. Eddy, the kite experimenter of Bayonne, N. J., made an interesting experiment Saturday night. He is satisfied that by means of observations taken at various altitudes, indications of approaching thunder storms and other meteorological data can be secured. About 200 feet below his kite a thermometer was hung, and near it a collector of electric sparks. The results obtained Saturday night led Mr. Eddy to believe that the electric condition of the air shown by the varying height of the collector when the first spark is drawn may reveal the approach of storms in even a cloudless sky. In particular he thinks it will prove advantageous in determining the approach of local storms.

Father and Daughters Insane.

San Francisco, Nov. 16.—A patriotic scene was enacted in Judge Carroll Cook's courtroom today, when John Durr and his three daughters—Kate, Theresa and Sarah—were adjudged insane, and committed to the Ukiah asylum. The family has been living for many years in a little flat at 172 Clinton Park, renting the basement floor, on which money they have existed. Recently, they had been unable to collect the rent, and were on the verge of starvation when their condition was discovered.

The family was at one time very wealthy, the father being of the firm of Kennedy & Durr, who, in early days kept a large dry goods store at Third and Howard streets.

Mushrooms generally consist of 90 per cent water, but the remaining 10 per cent, is more nutritious than bread.

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RESPITE FOR DURRANT

Condemned Murderer Given Another Lease of Life.

LAW ALLOWS 60 DAYS OF GRACE.

Supreme Court of California Hears His Petition and Grants a Stay of Execution.

San Francisco, Nov. 15.—William Henry Theodore Durrant will not be hanged at San Quentin tomorrow morning, after all, the supreme court of this state having granted him another respite at the eleventh hour.

Up to 4 o'clock this afternoon, when the news was flashed over the wires from Sacramento that the court now in session there had granted a writ of probable cause, and had instructed Warden Hale not to carry out the execution of Durrant until further orders, there was apparently no further hope for the condemned murderer of Blanche Lamont, as his attorneys, Messrs. Dickinson and Boardman, had made a futile effort to secure another writ of habeas corpus in the United States circuit court, and had not even been granted permission to appeal from that decision to the supreme court of the United States.

Meanwhile, however, Attorney Denprey hastened to Sacramento and applied to the state supreme court for a writ of probable cause for the purpose of staying the proceedings against his client, upon the grounds that no official knowledge of the action of the supreme court of the United States in the matter of Durrant's appeal from the decision of the federal court had yet been received; that the superior court had acted too hastily in sentencing Durrant to be hanged tomorrow, as the law required that he be given at least 60 days of grace, and, consequently, that the pendency of another appeal in the supreme court affecting the condemned man is of itself sufficient cause of a stay of execution.

The matter was partially argued in chambers, and later argued before the full court and taken under advisement. Shortly afterward the court announced its decision, granting the writ applied for, in which all the justices concurred. Shorty before midnight, Attorney Eugene Denprey, of counsel for Durrant, arrived from Sacramento, having crossed the bay in steam launch. The purpose of this trip was to make personal service on Warden Hale of a certified copy of the order of probable cause issued by the supreme court at Sacramento. The precaution was taken that there might be no pretext for executing Durrant tomorrow. The warden was asleep, and was deaf to