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**FREE TILL 1899** New subscribers to Oregon City Courier will receive the paper till 1899 for \$1.50. Old subscribers can by paying up arrears have it at same price.

**NEWS FROM MANILLA.**  
Extracts From Interesting Letters Written by Volunteers.

The following letter was written by Fred Hargreaves to Judge William Galoway:  
MANILLA, P. I. Sep. 8th, 1899.—My Dear Friend: Since last writing you wonderful changes have taken place over here at Manilla, as you are probably aware of. It is needless for me to enumerate the different agents that have recently taken place on this far-away shore, for you undoubtedly know as much about them as I. Now, that the cable is connected, you will receive regular reports from here.

Manilla, like Portland and Oregon City by the Willamette, is cut into by the Pasig river. One division is called old Manilla, while the other is called New Manilla.

The Second Oregon is now stationed in old Manilla. Company F, General Merritt's body guard, is at the palace, while the remainder of us are near-by. We have as good quarters as any of the Eight Army Corps. Every man has a hammock which can be swung outside under the trees; also a cot inside, on which we keep our load of soldier's paraphernalia. It seems to be more unhealthy here than at Cavite, and we have had considerable sickness lately. But there seems to be an improvement now in this respect.

Frank Weed has just recovered from a siege of sickness. I have been very fortunate in this respect. I never felt much better than I have since coming to Manilla, and feel confident that I can maintain good health under the circumstances. Mr. Poindexter, also, has enjoyed perfect health.

In my last letter I asked for the names of your relatives in the Idaho regiment; but since then I have succeeded in finding them without the names. The quarters of the Idaho boys and the 14th regulars are adjoining. I found your nephew without any difficulty, and was more than pleased to meet him, I assure you. We enjoyed a good long talk together over the good old times across the broad Pacific—about the "land of milk and honey." After dinner we went over to Company H's quarters, and found Mr. Benedict, who, also, was very glad to meet a friend of your 7,000 miles away. I expect them over one of these days, as they are acquainted with several others of our regiment besides Mr. Weed and myself. Like the rest of us they are very anxious to return to the United States.

Manilla is not the city that I expected to find. We imagined that it would compare with San Francisco. It is probably as large in size, but in the quality of a city, it fails to come up to the standard of Oregon City. There is only four or five blocks that will compare with the principal streets of Portland, the city generally having the appearance of China town, with its little Philippine shops. Their best streets are built of flag stones, and these are very scarce. Street cars of the poorest grade are drawn by mules and horses. The fares are very low, probably made to correspond with speed. The principal street contains a few ordinary-sized stores and little else. Among them are some of the largest and most costly jewelry establishments that I ever saw, but the jewelry is very high in price. Silk goods are about all that can be called cheap. The boys will bring home about all they can carry. Tomorrow is payday, after which I expect to fill a valise of silks myself. Ours' is the swell regiment now, as we have been issued uniforms that are white from the helmets down.

FRED HARGREAVES.

Following are extracts from a letter written by A. E. Howell, a private in Company I, to relatives here:  
Every time I sit down to write to you I wonder when that cablegram is coming to notify the troops to come home from Manilla, but I don't suppose it will be over a hundred years.

The report was current night-before-last that France, Germany and England had assumed the war debt, and that a dispatch boat had been sent out after General Merritt to take him back to the United States. The news was also circulated that we would be sent home in about 15 days, but yesterday the insurgents killed three of the Fourteenth boys, and we now have outpost guards every night. The other night one of the boys from our Company and a corporal, killed two Spaniards. They were trying to get in the San Francisco church to steal some commissary goods. The boys started to arrest them, but they showed fight, and, of course, our boys had to shoot to protect themselves. I haven't seen any good fun, but expect to before the regiment is ordered home.

We have been ordered to wear our brown clothes, and have each received 60 rounds more of ammunition, so it must mean for the natives to keep quiet.

There are about 200 of the soldiers sick in the hospital at Manilla. All of the sick from Cavite were sent home. One soldier of the Fourteenth was killed during the capture of Manilla. He was shot on the leg on the way in, and while his comrades were carrying him away on a stretcher, a bullet struck him in the head, causing instant death.

The lightning yesterday was a sight worth seeing, and those that were on guard received shocks that they will long remember. The Spaniards told them not to carry their guns on their shoulders during a thunder storm, but they refused to heed the warning. As a consequence, they received severe shocks, which sounded like shell explosions over the barracks. Some of the boys were lying in their hammocks, and they jumped and ran for their guns, imagining that the natives had made an attack and threw a shell into our camp.

We are drilled of mornings for half an hour, and then we go swimming. I'm on cook's duty today, and we have peaches, beans and biscuits for dinner.

The heat here is nearly killing me as well as the rest of the boys. Everything is going along nicely, except that we can't go over to New Manilla since the riot. General Merritt holds the Fourteenth and Company I in the highest esteem. We look all right in our new white uniforms and helmets.

We have dances every night in Company G's quarters, and you ought to see us shine around the room with our ladies.

I think we have the best chaplain of

any regiment here. He does everything possible for us, looks after the mail and library, and plays baseball with us.  
None of the boys from Oregon City are sick except Gantenbein and I, and I can't say that I'm sick.  
ARTHUR EDGEBE HOWELL.

Captain L. L. Pickets sent his wife some photographs of native Philippine and half Spanish women, that gives one some idea of the appearance of the inhabitants of the islands. These pictures are on exhibition in the show window of Harding's drug store.

**Probate Court.**

H. K. Stoddill was appointed administrator of the estate of Asa G. Stogsdill, deceased. The heirs were Mary E. Stogsdill, (widow), Canby; Asa G. Stogsdill, Wasco county; H. K. Stogsdill, Canby; Mary A. Stogsdill, Canby. The estate is valued at \$1400, and the appraisers are William Knight, Ladru Mack and Fred Rosecrans.

Amanda Perrott was appointed administrator of the estate of Henry Perrott, deceased. The estate is valued at \$800, and situated in Boring precinct, and the appraisers are S. E. Card, John C. Bradley and A. Vetch.

In the matter of the guardianship of the minor heirs of H. C. Ringo, deceased, Martha Ringo, guardian, was authorized to pay the expenses of sickness and burial of Cora A. Ringo, deceased.

In the matter of the estate of Charles T. Pilster, deceased, Henry A. Troge, administrator, filed his final account, which was approved.

Margaret E. Freeman, Mary E. Herren and Sarah Gilmore, heirs of Matilda Holt, deceased, filed a petition asking that C. M. Idleman, executor of said estate be required to make a report of the condition, in full, of said estate, and to file a new bond. The petition asserts that the executor has not filed a report with the court for a period of five years.

**Circuit Court.**

The following new suits have been filed in the circuit court, which convenes November 7th:

G. A. Rockwood vs W. H. Smith, et al, foreclosure suit, \$346.33.

McMinnville College vs M. J. Broderick, et al; foreclosure suit, \$1400.

Martha Edleman has filed a suit against William Edleman for a divorce. The complaint alleges that the plaintiff and defendant were married in Benton county, July, 1875, and that she has been treated cruelly and inhumanly, he having called her the vilest names and beat her until the flesh was bruised, black and blue. The plaintiff asks for the custody of Louis, one of the six children raised by the parties of this suit.

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At the Racket Store.

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Just arrived—a consignment of genuine old government Java Coffee (green) in original mats. Regularly worth 35 cents per lb. Our price 25 cents.  
A. ROBERTSON,  
Seventh street Grocer.

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Fine California wines—tokay, port and sherry—by the quart or gallon. These goods have been purchased by the barrel and will be sold at an extremely low figure. We have also choice brands of old Kentucky whiskeys, California brandies and French brandies, put up especially for family use—the best and the cheapest. THE BISMARCK, Oregon City.

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45 cents round trip from Oregon City to Portland and return via Southern Pacific trains. One way rate 25 cents. Tickets now on sale at railroad depot. Trains leave Oregon City at 8:40 a. m., and 3:35 p. m., and arrives from Portland at 9:23 a. m. and 6:52 p. m. Save time by using the quicker route.

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**In Second-Hand Goods**  
I have stoves, cooking utensils, carpets, bedding, furniture—in fact any and everything you want for housekeeping.

**I will Buy Anything**  
You have to sell and pay you the highest price. Call and see me.  
**G. H. YOUNG,**  
MAIN STREET - OREGON CITY

**That Fire Ordinance.**

Some of the fire department boys say that there will be a hot time in the old town of Oregon City, provided the new ordinance regulating the fire department is passed by the city council. A number of them state if this ordinance goes into effect that they will step down and out, or in other words, resign. They claim that it does away with the only privilege that they have—electing their own chief engineer. They claim that while they have made mistakes, others have done the same, but they are anxious to see the department improved. The majority of the member complain bitterly, when the fact is brought out that they are to be denied the right of suffrage. The firemen assert that they have done good work, and point with pride to their record, and look upon it as a hard deal, not to have a say as to who shall be their chief engineer.

A few of the firemen, however, assert that the ordinance is the proper thing, among them John F. Clark, ex-assistant chief engineer.

The majority of the business men spoken to, that they had not studied the matter much, and while appreciating the work of the firemen, believed in endorsing the efforts of the mayor and council in improving the status of the fire department.

Mayor Caulfield has the following to say in reference to the new ordinance: "Our city charter says that 'the council shall have power to make all needful regulations for the prevention and extinguishment of fires and for the preservation of property exposed to danger in time of fire, and to appoint all officers required for such purposes and to establish and maintain a fire department.'"

Under the present ordinance the city has no practical control of the fire department, nor any knowledge, or way of getting knowledge concerning its needs or requirements. The present ordinance concerning the department does not give the council power to compel a chief engineer to file his regular reports with that body, so that they can have an intelligent idea as to the condition of the hose, apparatus, etc., and as to the needs of the department so that efficient work can be done. The growth of the town and increase in mills and valuable property, make it absolutely necessary that our fire department be under the control of a competent and practical fireman at all times.

This is not a question of sentiment, but a practical question for the protection of valuable property. The best means to bring this about is what all firemen and citizens should desire. The right to elect a chief engineer is not a prerogative for which they should contend so strong, each and every fireman joins the department not for fun, but from a sense of duty to protect the property he owns or the property that furnishes him a living. If a change of system of electing a chief engineer should bring about better fire protection the firemen should be satisfied. Personally, I do not question the result of our new ordinance if it should become a law. The main idea of the same is to place the control of the fire department in the hands of a board of fire commissioners, to be composed of the mayor, recorder and committee of fire and water of the council. The chief engineer and assistant to be directly under their control and to report to them. It will be the duty of the board of fire commissioners through the chief engineer to know at all times the actual condition of the department and its requirements, and in this way can intelligently recommend to the council the purchase of new hose, apparatus, or repair of the same.

The chief engineer and assistant-engineer to be elected by the council and to be responsible to them for the condition of the fire department, and to be subject to removal by that body for cause. The chief engineer to receive a salary of \$10 per month for which he is to perform certain specified duties.

The new ordinance does not affect the right of each company to have its own organization and elect its own officers, but simply places the control of the department on a whole in the hands of the council, from whom its source of support must come. I think the firemen in fairness should concede this. I am in favor of liberal treatment of the department and think that the men who give their time for the protection of the city should be provided with the very best of apparatus and appliances and that it should be some ones duty to see that it is at all times ready for service.

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It is to yourself, your family, your friends and to all you benefit to carefully and conscientiously investigate the merits of **VITE-ORE** as a remedy for those who need a cure. There is no experimenting, no guess work, no danger, no loss of time. It is perfectly harmless, and may always be relied on. It is the queen of cures, for it reaches the *nidos* of all diseases, and will cure you when all other remedies have failed—after you have tried all catch-ponny humbugs and frauds only to grow older and worse. Do not neglect to give it a trial, for **Vite-Ore** comes to the sick and the afflicted like the vision of the Eastern star to the wise men. On every package of the genuine will be found the red ink signature of Theo. Noel. Price \$1.00 by mail.  
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I take pleasure in announcing to the public that I have put in a Fine Line of NEW Furniture, NEW Carpets, NEW Matting,  
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Of Furniture, Carpets and Stoves  
**Is Always Complete**  
Convince yourself by getting our prices before buying.  
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**BREAD and PASTRY**  
Go to  
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IS THE TIME to clean house and repaper your rooms and paint your house and .....

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