

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1856.

Immigration.

We have heard from several quarters that something of an immigration would come to Oregon next summer. We hope this may be true. It is certain that our population must be vastly increased before the resources of the country are developed, and society assumes a settled, permanent character. We want the men here in the first place to settle and cultivate the lands. It is altogether a mistaken notion that even the Willamette valley is half settled. This land we know is mostly claimed and held in large tracts of from half a section to a whole section by men who, instead of improving the lands, have not generally enclosed it, and many of them are too indolent to walk round the boundaries of their possessions. Much of this land is now in market, at a reasonable price, and more of it will be offered on similar terms, as soon as the burthen of a State government begins to bear heavily upon large landholders, whose broad acres are yielding them nothing. This land needs to be parceled out in small farms of from one hundred acres to a quarter section each among laboring men, who are willing to till the soil to support their families. The advantages of such a compact population as this would give in the way of society, schools, road facilities, and a system of general public improvements, is too obvious to need explanation.

As we said before, much of the land in Oregon can now be bought for a reasonable price, say from three to six dollars an acre. What we now need is an immigration to buy and settle it. It is surprising to us that while such vast numbers of emigrants are pouring into Kansas, Nebraska, and other new portions of the great West, so few of them turn their attention this way. No new country in the world we believe offers as great inducements to free labor as this. The peculiarity of our productions, the mountain fastnesses, and the bordering tribes of Indians by which we shall always be surrounded, seem to preclude the possibility of the existence of slavery for any length of time. Oregon is, and ever must be, emphatically the home of the free.

As an agricultural country, we believe it is unsurpassed. All the grains, vegetables, and fruits, that thrive in the Northern and Middle States, are produced in much greater perfection with similar cultivation here than there, excepting perhaps corn, and that does well enough even here. From thirty to forty bushels of wheat to the acre, with proper cultivation, is no uncommon yield. The land being mostly prairie, needs little or no clearing to prepare it for the plow. When to these facts we add that of the mild climate we enjoy, the thermometer not reaching zero perhaps once in five years, a climate which produces grass for stock summer and winter, thus obviating the necessity of the great labor our transmountain friends expend in putting up fodder for winter, and when we also add the fact that we have the purest mountain water, and enjoy the best health of perhaps any other people, we think that we can offer more inducements to such as are seeking a home in the west than can be found elsewhere. No man who has a well balanced head could ever live in the States after enjoying our climate for a few years.

There is at present a great scarcity of mechanics and laborers of all kinds. A poor farmer, on arriving here, who is not able to purchase land at once, could make more by renting farms already stocked, than he could make in the States by far.

If people in the States were all of our fancy, and knew just what Oregon is, there would be twenty seven millions of people here in less than twelve months.

The Contested Seat.

We have all the evidence before us that was offered to the Legislature in reference to the contested Clatsop case. We must acknowledge that after reading it over carefully we are not able to see upon what ground Col. Taylor was ousted from his seat.

In debating the question, the members of the House generally expressed themselves that the evidence was so banging, mixed up, and contradictory, that it was hard to understand.

As an impartial judge of the whole matter, we should, from the testimony offered, be forced to the conclusion that three of the votes cast for Col. Taylor were illegal, and three others cast for Moffitt were equally so. This would have still left Col. Taylor two votes ahead. If Taylor had been in the place of Moffitt we have no doubt but the result would have been just the same; that is, Taylor would have been given to Moffitt. We would recommend the Legislature to pass a law making Moffitt a life member from Clatsop, and abolishing elections in that county for representation.

Well, it is something of an honor to Clatsop to have come even that near to getting in Col. Taylor as their representative.

We are under obligations to Col. Kelley of the Council, and A. L. Lovejoy of the House for favors.

Shipwreck.

The Calumet, a small vessel belonging to Jennings and Company, and employed in furnishing the Indians on the Reservation with provisions, was wrecked a few days ago at the mouth of the Siletz.

When off the mouth of the river a storm came on which rendered it necessary to run in at all hazards. In crossing the bar, the vessel struck, knocking a hole in her bottom, when she was immediately beached. The lading, which consisted of flour, was removed and stowed on the beach, together with the rigging of the vessel, which was afterwards all swept away by the rising flood, driven ashore by the storm. The flour however was received and receipted for by the government agent before it was destroyed. The flood swept the beach of Indian graves, canoes and huts, which have been there undisturbed for years. Several Indian families were swept into the surf. No lives were lost, although some of the Indians had limbs broken.

The Indians on the Reservation have had quite a time of it in killing their doctors and fighting among themselves. Some half dozen have been either killed or wounded. The Indian agent still allows them to carry out their practices as connected with their old superstitious notions about their "lamachin" men. If one of their conjurers, or "lamachin ties," loses a patient, the Indian law requires his death. It has always seemed to us that the U. S. Government ought to put a check upon savage barbarities of this kind, where Indians are living within the bounds of civil jurisdiction. We should think that especially Indians who are retained upon a reservation ought to be subject to some kind of humane municipal arrangement.

"ANOTHER SUMMERSETT."—Dryer has declared himself in favor of the doctrine of the Nebraska bill.—"Czapkay's Organ." A gentleman from Salem informs us that Dryer denied there that he ever favored the election of Fremont, and made a speech classing all free-soilers as "abolitionists," and avowing a preference for out and out pro-slavery men over all such.—The fact that Czapkay's organ, which never yet published any thing just as it was, has announced that Dryer has gone over to Dr. Henry's platform, makes us think there must be some mistake about.

"On the arrival of the news of the election of Buchanan and Breckenridge, the democracy of Portland fired one hundred guns in honor of the election."—Portland Times.

And drank a barrel and a half of cheap whisky, after which they "toted" home a poor editor with such an awful big brick in his hat that he couldn't do any thing but vomit and shout, "Hoo (hic)-raw for (hic) Buck (hic)-honor!"

"THE PACIFIC CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE."—This is the title of a new newspaper which the Methodist Episcopal Church Conference South, at their last session, resolved to establish. Rev. O. Fisher is to be the editor, and Revs. W. R. Guber, M. Evans and O. P. Fitzgerald, Publishing Committee.—Alta California.

It seems the brethren in California are not willing to recognize "Bro. Parrish's Advocate" as *The Advocate*. As long as *The Pacific Christian Advocate* is to be published in California, we presume the General Conference will change the title of the Salem paper to "An Advocate."

Poetry.

Some hard down in Portland has broken loose, and delivered himself of a "pome" containing twenty-six verses, through the Times. How a paper can be published for \$2.50 that has such contributors, is beyond the ken of our suspicion. The Times says it is "original." Well, perhaps it is, but it certainly took more than one human being to perpetrate it.

We give a specimen or two:
"We pray Thee, Lord, will Thou prevent
The stiller's mixed gra's ferment—
To stop the 'wern' that gave it vent,
That they may not e'en make a cent."

There's sublimity, pathos, and terseness for you, all done up in the form of an invocation. Our devil suggests that this verse would be improved by substituting
"God be merciful to me a sinner!"

But he, like all other devils is impious, besides not much of a judge of "pomes."

But here's another verse describing the "topers":

"Like Hamlet's ghost they come about
Haunting up the imbibing boat—
Not finding, wonders where they've gone
To get something to drink that's strong."

There is one of the "goms" which "the dark unfathomed (before) cares of ocean bore."

Nobody but the Times' contributor ever dived deep enough to reach it.

We make but one more selection, here it is:

"Now, my friends, we must unite;
If we would make the gallant fight,
And stop the still-house, plug the worm,
And save the world from this great wrong."

If there is much more such poetry in this author, while he is "plugging the worm" of the still it would be a pity if some wag should "plug" him, and deprive the world of any more of the same sort.

"We notice that several of our farmers are flattering themselves that they will soon be able to raise their own almonds. We have had the pleasure of testing these Oregon almonds, but can see little difference between them and peach stones. The tree is perfectly useless."

Col. Taylor, who was defrauded of his seat in the Legislature, passed through this city on his way home to Clatsop last Wednesday.

The Willamette is unusually high yet, although a slight fall of its waters enabled the Jennie Clark to get out of the basin last Monday, and resume her regular trips.

The teamsters in this city are now reaping a golden harvest. They are crowded with work, and make as high as ten dollars a day. Boats are not able to get up to the mills on the Linn City side to discharge their lading, but unload at Canfield's wharf. The goods are hauled from this to Canemah at a dollar and a half a load.

We are sorry to hear that our friend G. O. Burnett of Bellet, is lying very low on a sick bed, and that little hopes are entertained of his recovery.

For the Argus.

What Slavery will do for Oregon.

Mr. Editor.—Dear Sir: It is whispered on all sides that Oregon is in danger of becoming a slave State. It is said that our Delegate has been flooding the Territory with documents advocating slavery, and since the Nebraska bill has been endorsed here, and since the party in power here coincides with the party in power in the nation, it is feared that leading politicians are preparing the way to precipitate this question upon us.

But there are some considerations on the other side which may be weighed against these dangers. In the first place, the people of Oregon came here expecting that it would be a free State. They evidently chose to be in a free State. Their first choice will not be easily given up.—Some of them remember the evils of slavery more than its blessings. They have no wish to reproduce them here, and leave them as a heritage for their children.

In the second place, the observation and experience of every intelligent person convince him that free labor is the most economical, as it is the most productive. A glance at the condition of the States, shows that freedom elevates every person, while slavery rapidly forms a small aristocratic class of planters and a large class of poor whites. Freedom makes us equal; slavery, unequal. Freedom is democratic; slavery tends to concentrate all influence and control in the hands of a few large slave and land holders. Freedom divides the country into many small farms, which are well cultivated by an industrious yeomanry; slavery swallows up the small farms in one great plantation, under one owner. Freedom gives every man employment at high wages; slavery turns the multitudes of white men out of employ. Freedom invites intelligent artisans of all kinds to build manufactories and improve our water powers; slavery degrades the white laborer to the condition of a serf, and renders a mechanic ignoble. Slaves rapidly increase, and then comes the slave trade; and when markets are opened, slave breeding follows; with this comes in family corruption, and in the end inevitable ruin to the masters themselves. Freedom makes a people strong by an equal interest in the common welfare. Slavery continually weakens a people by rendering the interests of one class adverse to those of another. "We have more to fear," says Gov. Wise of Virginia, "from our own poor whites than from the abolitionists of the North."

All the above facts are obvious on a moment's reflection. They are known to all who have examined the subject.

In view of them, do we wish to accept slavery for Oregon, and give up freedom? Many men irrespective of party will say, No. True, we need more laborers, and we need cheaper laborers; but the one will bring the other. As soon as emigrants can come to Oregon, they will come. Besides, by a little effort we can turn German immigration this way. Already we know that a large German colony are waiting near St. Louis to come and settle lands hitherto bought by them.

Oregon needs a free white population more than any thing else to develop her ample resources. But if slavery is inaugurated, how quickly will the tide of free immigration cease. No new family will come from a free State, while hundreds now here will leave Oregon forever.

These facts all weigh against introducing slavery here, and they will weigh in the minds of our intelligent voters.

Yours truly, A.

CURE FOR EXTREME THIRST.—Eat a piece of hard biscuit with a lump of white sugar. In thirst the salivary glands of the mouth are paralyzed, and cold water may seriously injure the stomach, but pass by the glands without the least benefit. But restore their action by severe chewing, and immediately there will be relief.

Infinite toil would not enable you to sweep away a mist; but by ascending a little, you may often look over it altogether. So it is with your moral improvement; we wrestle fiercely with a vicious habit, which would have no hold upon us if we ascended into a higher moral atmosphere.

"Even this will pass over!" was the proverb which the wise Solomon gave to an Eastern friend who desired such a motto as would make the soul strong in misfortune, and humble in prosperity.

OREGON LEGISLATURE.

DECEMBER 8, 1856.

House.—The Clatsop contested seat was taken up.

Lovejoy moved that the report of the committee be taken up.

Avery asked a day or two longer time, in order to be able to examine the printed report more critically, as it had but just been printed.

Smith of Linn thought all necessary light would be elicited by discussion.

Lovejoy moved to refer the report to committee of the whole.

Taylor stated that the chairman of the committee had given him assurance that the additional proof he hourly expected should go before the House if it came by the mail. He had observed on reading the printed report that material evidence was left out which he thought was in the possession of the committee.

Lovejoy's motion adopted.

Smith of Linn took the chair.

On motion of Dryer the contestant and sitting members were requested to present their cases. Moffitt and Taylor made a few remarks each, submitting the evidence to the committee, and expressing a willingness to abide their decision.

Dryer made a few remarks expressing surprise that the gentlemen were not more forward in defending their cases by way of explaining the bungling evidence that had been before the committee. He had hoped that an effort would have been made to set the committee right if they had erred.—Had no preference for either; would be glad to vote for both; thought Clatsop ought to have two members judging from the bungling character of the evidence sent up.

Lovejoy made a speech giving some reasons why he rejected three of the votes who supported Taylor—Latty, West, and Hendrickson.

Afternoon.—House proceeded with the Clatsop contested election case.

Dryer wished for information as to what "bucking" meant, as he saw in the evidence that Brown, who was said to have illegally voted for Moffitt, went over to Clinton and bucked with Hall and others. What he wanted to know was, whether Brown's "bucking" disfranchised him?

Taylor said he wished to reply to the gentleman from Washington and Multnomah, (Dryer,) who had accused the good people of Clatsop county with gossiping and meddling with matters above their capacity. He thought it was not so; but if it was true, it must be owing to their reading a filthy dirty sheet called the Oregonian, which had a limited circulation in that community.

Smith of Linn made a speech affirming his great sincerity and candor and his strict impartiality in the whole premises. He went into an examination of some of the evidence, and gave his reasons for supporting Moffitt's claims.

Committee rose and reported progress.

Taylor by special leave offered a bill changing the name of Clara Hay, to Clara Hay Pease.

Consor gave notice of a bill to incorporate the "Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company."

DECEMBER 8.

Council.—Bayley presented the report of A. S. Watt, University Land Commissioner, which was read and ordered printed.

The bill providing for taking the sense of the people on the formation of a State, was read the second time and referred to the Judiciary committee.

DECEMBER 9.

Council.—O'Bryant, from committee on roads and highways, for relief of P. Crawford, reported adversely to the claims. Report adopted.

Bill enlarging the limits of Dallas passed to third reading.

Bill repealing the act for relocating county seats was referred to committee of the whole.

House.—Ray presented a petition from the Dunkards of Linn, asking exemption from militia service, and to be allowed to work on the highways instead. Referred to committee on military affairs.

Consor presented petitions from Fields and others, praying for a change in certain Territorial roads.

House went into committee of the whole on the Clatsop election case.

Starkweather moved to take up each disputed vote in order, and pass upon its validity as they come to it.

Dryer opposed it.

Brown of Multnomah made a speech declaring his opposition to ousting Taylor upon the evidence offered. He thought there was much evidence that several who voted for Moffitt were illegal voters, and he was disposed to declare the seat vacant, so that a special election could be held forth with Clatsop. In such a case a member could be returned by New Year's.

(It was here announced that additional evidence had arrived, which was read, but the House refused to entertain it.)

Allen was opposed to going over the evidence in detail. He had studied the report, and couldn't see how any one could differ from the committee.

Rogers made a speech to the same effect.

Report adopted.—Yeas, Avery, Allen, Bennett, Brown of Linn, Collari, Cochran, Consor, Dryer, Gates, Harpole, Johnson, Lovejoy, Matthews Miller, Monroe, Ray, Rogers, Rose Smith of Linn, Starkweather,

Underwood, Walker, Welch, and Grover—25. Nays, Barr, Brown of Multnomah, and Smith of Jackson.

Starkweather gave notice of a bill to amend an act for the relief of Clackamas, Washington, Multnomah, and Linn counties.

Afternoon.—Moffitt of Clatsop was qualified and took his seat. He thanked the House cordially for giving it to him.

Smith of Linn presented a communication from Quarter Master General J. W. Drew, stating that his official reports according to the military usage of all great warlike nations were made to the Governor; that his officers were busy making out their reports, which would be by him laid before the commissioners on war claims.

On motion of Dryer it was temporarily tabled.

Moffitt presented report of pilot commissioners.

Bill for relief of Nat Lane, referred to committee on claims.

House went into committee of whole, Lovejoy in the chair.

Bill conforming Oregon Courts to act of Congress of Aug. 16, 1856, was taken up.

Avery's bill to change the judicial districts was taken up. Avery, Smith of Linn, Allen, Lovejoy, Grover, and others, discussed it at length, when it was reported back without recommendation.

DECEMBER 10.

Council.—Bill for taking the sense of the people on State government passed to third reading.

Bill to extend the bounds of Dallas engrossed.

Leave of absence was granted Col. Ford for five days.

House.—A bill regulating treasury department passed its final reading.

Bill to change judicial districts referred to judiciary committee.

Bill conforming action of courts to act of Congress passed.

A communication from Commissary General McCarver was received, stating that he would report as soon as convenient.

Upon motion to print the communication of the Quarter Master General, a lengthy debate arose as to the propriety of calling on him for a report, which was enjoyed by Smith of Linn, Dryer, then Smith of Linn again, when the resolutions were tabled by a vote of 18 to 11.

The bill repealing the act fixing the pay of judges and clerks of elections was tabled.

DECEMBER 11.

Council.—Council in committee of whole reported back bill to incorporate De Sutes bridge company, with amendments, recommending its passage.

Bill to repeal the act for relocating county seats indefinitely postponed.

House.—Bill to conform acts of courts to acts of Congress engrossed.

Bill to extend the bounds of Dallas passed to third reading.

Starkweather gave notice of a bill to amend the marriage and divorce act.

Smith of Linn offered resolutions requesting the Governor to furnish all the information in his possession in regard to the war finances. Adopted.

The bill relating to Clara Hay Pease was passed.

Consor gave notice of a bill declaring the Santiam river navigable.

Smith of Linn introduced a bill to incorporate a masonic lodge at Albany.

It was resolved to substitute Moffitt in place of Taylor on committees.

DECEMBER 12.

Council.—Bill for taking the sense of people on State government passed.

Bill regulating acts of courts to act of Congress passed.

AN ACT to provide for taking the sense of the people for or against the formation of a State Government.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon, That a poll shall be opened at the annual election to be held on the first Monday of June next for the reception of votes for or against a Convention—also for the election of Delegates to form a constitution for a State Government as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. Provided in case a majority of the legal votes of the Territory are cast against convention, then and in that case the election of Delegates shall be considered informal and of no effect.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the auditor of each county to prepare on the poll-books for each precinct in their county two columns, one headed for convention and one headed against convention, and it shall be the duty of the judges of election for the several precincts to ask each and every voter who shall offer his vote, are you in favor of or against a convention, and according to their answer the vote shall be recorded by the clerk on the poll-books.

Sec. 4. The votes for or against convention, shall be taken, certified and canvassed in the same manner and under like regulations as by law is provided for the vote for members of the Legislative Assembly of this Territory.

Sec. 5. That within twenty days after the vote shall be canvassed in the manner aforesaid it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Territory on or before the second Monday of July to make out an abstract of the votes for or against convention, together with a certificate of the final result of the whole vote cast, and cause the same to be published in the several newspapers of the Territory. And if by such abstract and certificate, published as aforesaid, it shall appear that a majority of all the votes cast shall be in favor of convention, then and in that case it shall be the duty of the delegates elected to meet at the seat of government on the third Monday of August next, and proceed to the formation of a State constitution.

Sec. 6. That the election of Delegates to the convention shall be conducted, held, canvassed and certified in the same manner and under like regulations as elections for members of the Legislative Assembly.

Sec. 7. Each county shall be entitled to elect the following number of Delegates, to wit: Clatsop, one, [1] Columbia one, [1] Wasco one, [1] Washington three, [3] Multnomah three, [3] Clackamas five, [5] Yamhill four, [4] Tillamook one, [1] Marion seven, [7] Linn six, [6] Lane six, [6] Unqupa two, [2] Douglas four, [4] Coos one, [1] Curry one, [1] Josephine two, [2] Jackson four, [4] Benton four, [4] Polk three, [3] Polk and Tillamook jointly one, [1] Multnomah and Washington jointly one, [1].

Sec. 8. That the constitution herein provided for, before taking effect, shall be submitted for adoption or rejection to a vote of the qualified voters within the boundaries of the proposed State. Such vote to be taken in like manner and in conformity to the laws of this Territory regulating elections, at such time as said convention may determine.

Sec. 9. The delegates to said convention shall be allowed such compensation as shall be hereafter appropriated by Congress for such payment.

Sec. 10. This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

POPULATION OF IRELAND.—EFFECTS OF THE FAMINE.—By a report of the census for Ireland for 1851, which has just been published, we learn some heart rending facts respecting the awful ravages caused by the famine in that country:—"We now beg," says the report, "to call attention to the extraordinary decrease in the rural population which resulted from the famine and emigration of 1845, and the following years. In the whole of Ireland there has been a general diminution of the rural population of 53 persons to the square mile of the entire area, and of 104 persons to the square mile of arable land." And the sum total of decrease is given in the two following sets of figures:—"The numerical decrease of the inhabitants between 1841 and 1851 amounted to 1,622,030, or 19.85 per cent; but this, being merely the difference between the number of the people in 1841 and 1851, without making any allowance for a natural and ordinary increase of population, conveys but very inadequately the effect of the visitation of famine and pestilence." A very simple additional calculation completes the estimate, of which the following is the result: "We find that the population of the 30th of March, 1851, would probably have numbered 9,018,769, instead of 5,532,390, and that, consequently, the loss of population between 1841 and 1851 may be computed at the enormous amount of 2,645,414 persons."

CURIOUS BLVDGNS.—Columbus, sailing to America, thought he was discovering a passage to China, or Cathay. Even after it became known that a new continent had been discovered, instead of an old one revisited, geographers labored under many curious and erroneous impressions. America, beyond its sea-coast, was shrouded in mystery, and what lay beyond men could only conjecture. America was at first presented as a great peninsula of Asia, mixed up and joined with Japan, China, &c. Maps are shown in which China is in the closest neighborhood to Mexico, on which the Great Rio Colorado of California takes its source in Siberia, and where the Tartars and their horses and carrels are represented about the Rocky Mountains. A Chinese was also shown with his yellow shoes and trousers, and pointed bonnet, standing upright in the midst of the Appalachian Mountains, and not far from him the portrait of an elephant. This latter feature was not so far wrong, for certainly "the elephant" has been extensively seen in this country. But by degrees, as geographical knowledge improved, America was disjoined from Asia. Japan kept on the march to the West, and the Tartars, Chinese and elephants were dismissed to their several homes.—Portland Transcript

The pear tree will grow in almost any soil, provided the sub-soil is not too wet, but it thrives best in deep, strong loam. As too luxuriant a growth may induce blight, a moderate top-dressing of manure in the autumn is all that is necessary. When the tree is assailed by blight, the part affected should be cut off far below all appearances of disease. The insects which beset it are chiefly the caterpillar, the bark louse, and the slug-worm, to remedy which, soft soap is sometimes spread upon the tree, or a strong bath of whale oil soap suds applied. Air-slaked lime powdered liberally over the tree is useful.

Reputation may be the reward of mediocrity, and fame of talent that panders to popular passions; but immortal renown is the endless chant of generations, singing the praise of God-like men, who have lifted their race toward heaven.

It is impossible to love one in whose truthfulness we cannot confide; nor to slight one whose words, and purposes and actions are without dissimulation.

The liar is the greatest fool; but the next greatest fool is he who tells all he knows. A prudent reticence is the highest practice wisdom. Silence has made more fortunes, than the most gifted eloquence.

Lost! Yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset, two golden hours, set with sixty diamond minutes. No reward is offered, for they are gone forever.