

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1859.

California State Agricultural Fair.

We received a call this week from Judge P. A. McRae, who, with Dr. L. H. Bascom, has been to the upper end of the Valley. These gentlemen have visited our State on the part of the California State Agricultural Society for the purpose of taking notes of our capacity for producing in comparison with California. Judge McRae said that since he had gone through Oregon he was ready to acknowledge that we could beat California in the raising of winter apples.

The Fair will be held at Sacramento, commencing on the 13th of September, and continuing till the 23d, ten days. The citizens of Oregon, with real California liberality, are cordially invited to participate in the exercises of the Fair, on the same conditions with the citizens of California, and in the distribution of premiums there will be no distinction between the citizens of the two States. Judge McRae informed us that Capt. Patterson, of the California Steam Navigation Company, will carry all articles intended for exhibition at the Fair free of cost, on the steamer Pacific. With all these facilities, we hope the producers of Oregon will respond to the liberal invitation extended to them by our California brethren, and make a respectable show at the Fair. In the matter of fruit we can come up to them, if in nothing else.

THE ATTACK OF SNAKES ON WARM SPRINGS.

The party of Snakes we mentioned last week killed thirteen swans and children at the Reservation, and drove off about two hundred head of horses and cattle, most of which belonged to the Reservation. Dr. Fitch and his four companions managed to make their escape in the darkness. The Government and Indian property destroyed, is estimated at from \$8,000 to \$10,000 in value. The attacking party numbered about five hundred warriors, and were mounted on U. S. horses and mules, and some of them armed with U. S. rifles, which circumstance has given rise to fears for the safety of Capt. Wallen's command, which was opening a road to Salt Lake. The settlers in the vicinity of the Tigh have sent their families to the Dalles for safety. These Indians in their attack flourished a scalp, which appeared to be that of a white man.

THE CASE OF BALCH.

The trial of Balch for the murder of Stump, his son-in-law, last fall, commenced in Portland on Monday of this week, before Judge Wait. The case was submitted to the jury on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. After being out half an hour, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty. A new trial was immediately moved for by the counsel for the defense.

MR. HOOD.

Week before last a party of our citizens undertook an expedition for the ascent of Mount Hood, intending to make the trip to the top, if it were practicable—which some of the party seem to think never has been successfully accomplished yet. After getting a mile or two up the side of the mountain, however, it snowed and hailed and rained and "blowed" so hard that they gave up the attempt and returned to town, feeling that "there is no place like home." A few days previous, a party from Portland, consisting of Mr. Dryer and others, ascended to the top of this king of western mountains, finding his summit to be upward of eighteen thousand feet, or about three miles high.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Oregon City keeps up a little improvement to show that the life has not entirely gone out of it. Besides the Masonic Hall, the frame of which was raised by Mr. Morrison, the contractor, on last Thursday, we notice a substantial improvement in the sidewalk near the Congregational Church, which avoids the labor of going up and down those old steps. The residents in that part of town (the lazy ones especially) owe Mr. Meldrum a vote of thanks for the eye he has kept single to their welfare. As if to show that the scepter of business is departing from the upper end of the city, Mr. Charles Pope has removed his store to the new building of Mr. Hughes, just in front of the road coming down the hill, where he will be happy to see all his old friends and customers, and as many more new ones as choose to call on him. His rule is not to be undersold by any one in town.

GOLD MINES.

Mr. Joshua Bowman informs us that parties are now working the Santiam mines with some success, making from four to five dollars per day to the man. They have been at it for several weeks. Those who go out stay there, which he thinks is evidence that they are "doing something."

SCRIP CONVENTION.

The official proceedings of the Scrip Convention lately held at Eugene City, will be found on the first page of this week's paper. In our columns elsewhere will also be found an interesting report from the pen of one who was present, giving a clearer view of the proceedings of the convention than will be found in the official details. The article will repay perusal.

We are under obligations to P. J. Malone, Esq., for favors extended to this office.

The last shipment of apples to California from Oregon brought only six cents per pound.

Eugene City Scrip Convention.

The Gathering—The Organization and Proceedings—Speeches of Grover, Drew, Brock, and others—Pecunia on General Wool and the Statesman editor—None so poor as to do! Asahel "reverence"—Grover and Drew give him "the go by."

EUGENE CITY, LANE CO., Tuesday, Aug. 9, 1859.

Ed. ARGUS: The long-talked-of "Scrip Convention" is over, having adjourned to-day at 1 o'clock P. M., after a session of two days. The attendance manifested very little popular interest in the whole concern. Not more than a hundred persons (and most of these from this town and its immediate vicinity) made their appearance at the organization yesterday. To-day there were not more than twenty persons present.—This is as it should not be—a matter of so much State concern should have been better attended—but probably the present favorable weather for harvesting, following so close upon wet weather, kept many at home who would otherwise have attended.

Of the celebrities present, we may notice J. F. Grover, Gen. Drew, Col. Martin of Winchester, Col. Chapman, Mr. Brock, and Jo Teal!

Messrs. Drew, Grover, and Teal were the chief managers. On Monday, little was done. Mr. Grover gave us the benefit of his experience during the "fifty days he shouldered his musket as a private." The part he took (in the Legislature of 1855-6) in passing the famous act "organizing the militia," whereby "poor Curry" was deposed from his command in chief of the army, and "Asahel" virtually put in his stead, was also dwelt upon. His part in getting up the famous Bush petition for the removal of Know Nothings from army offices, was very conveniently slurred over. His action on the war commission was made the most of. He dwelt with peculiar emphasis on how he stood up for the highest price for volunteers and claimants, but he never once explained, or condescended to notice, how the sixty pages of errors, double entries, and double charges, contained in the letter of the Third Auditor to the Committee on Military Affairs, happened to be in the report of that commission. And, by the way, these very errors and overcharges, double entries, &c., which are now the greatest obstacles in the way of the recognition of our war debt, and which tend strongly to throw doubt and suspicion on the whole affair, never ought to have been there; and never would have been there had Mr. Grover given his undivided attention to the business of the war commission, instead of perambulating the country for electioneering purposes. He was a candidate for the Constitutional Convention; was elected to and served in it during the sitting of the war commission. He was also a candidate for, and was elected to, Congress during the period of the sitting of that commission. With all these political cares upon his hands to distract his attention from his duties as a commissioner, it is little to be wondered at that these sixty, or sixty-two, pages of errors, &c., culled from the report, should have crept into it. The military gentlemen on the commission (Capt. Smith and Capt. Ingalls) of course carried little what damaging features might appear in it—they were the agents on the part of the Federal Government, and it was no part of their business to correct features that would make against the claimants. This was Mr. Grover's duty, as the agent of the people of Oregon; a duty which it seems in the multiplicity of his other cares he had sadly neglected, as the letter of the Third Auditor attests.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Grover read a letter which he said had been received by Mr. Nesmith from the Third Auditor, making inquiry relative to the cash prices ruling in Oregon and Washington at the time of the war, of such supplies as the army needed—such as horses, clothing, arms, provisions, camp equipage, &c. Similar letters he said were addressed to different individuals all over the State. Here Gen. Drew chimed in, and said an officer at the mouth of the Umpqua received a letter of similar import. It was said also that Mr. Thayer of Corvallis had received one. To furnish answers to the interrogatories contained in these letters, Mr. Grover said was the object of the present meeting. After some further specifying, the following were named "a committee to report a plan of operations." I should perhaps have premised first that the meeting was organized by making choice of F. McMurray as chairman and W. N. Smith secretary.—However, I conceive order to be of little moment in this communication, as you will probably have published the skeleton outline of the proceedings ere this reaches your office. The following is the order of appointing the committee:

Jo Teal nominated Jo Drew; Jo Drew nominated Jo Teal; Mr. Grover nominated Avery A. Smith; Mr. A. A. Smith nominated Mr. Grover; Mr. Grover nominated Mr. Spencer of Portland; Mr. J. H. Lines of Linn county was also nominated.

Mr. Teal declined in favor of Mr. Ellsworth, but Mr. E. having to attend a concert this evening, couldn't possibly see. So the committee stood as nominated.—This ended Monday's proceedings.

The committee reported this morning as follows:—[The report of the committee will be found on the first page in the official proceedings of the convention.—Ed.] The report was adopted, and, on motion of Mr. Teal, W. S. Ladd of Portland (mer-

chant) was appointed the corresponding agent to transmit the evidence accumulated by the local committees to the Third Auditor at Washington.

Mr. Drew opposed the suggestion on the ground that it would be necessary for the evidence to be forwarded to Washington as early as possible, as the Auditor's report had to be made by the first week in December. Our delegation probably would not arrive in Washington until nearly the time of the meeting of Congress, and it would be necessary for the Third Auditor to have this evidence long before that—while preparing his report.

Mr. Brock then moved that Mr. Ladd be instructed to furnish our delegation in Congress with copies of all the evidence, &c., accumulating in his hands, for their own information and use.

Mr. Drew wished to qualify the instructions by inserting "if practicable, or so far as practicable to do so," thus leaving it discretionary with the agent, Mr. Ladd, to do so if he chose.

Mr. Brock insisted that there should be no qualification; said he hoped the Convention would take no action that could be construed into a slighting of our delegation, and that political feeling would not be allowed to govern any part of the action of this Convention.

Mr. Drew disclaimed any intention to make it a political meeting, and was proceeding to discuss his reasons for qualifying the instructions, at length, when

Mr. Teal proposed to raise a committee whose business it should be to have a sufficient number of copies of all the testimony published, to supply each member of Congress with a copy. He said he would give twenty dollars toward the publication himself, and Col. Martin said he would give ten dollars.

The suggestion took, and Mr. Teal was appointed a committee of one to raise means for, and procure, the publication.

A motion was made that the proceedings of the Convention be published in all the newspapers in the State.

Mr. Pengra suggested the propriety of omitting the names of the members of the committee who reported the order of business, &c., as many of them were men notoriously known to be employed in the war, and interested in the war claims; and the appearance of their names in connection with this meeting might have a damaging effect upon our success at Washington.—He would suggest the propriety of suppressing the names of the committee in the publication.

Mr. Grover fired up at this, and said he for one was not afraid or ashamed to have his name appear appended to the published report. He had no interest in the matter beyond the public good, and his personal interest for "those fifty days that he carried a musket as a private."

Mr. Drew proceeded to explain what in all probability Mr. Pengra had meant.

Mr. Pengra said he could and should speak for himself. What he meant was that doubt and suspicion had been thrown upon the honesty of our war claims at the East by the course of certain parties. It was said we had brought on the war for swindling purposes, and now if the names of those who figured conspicuously in that war at its inception should appear in the proceedings of this meeting, it would certainly look suspicious, to say the least of it, that it was a meeting of interested parties. How that doubt and suspicion came to fasten itself on the public mind in the East, it was not for us now to inquire, but we all knew how it originated—that it originated with Gen. Wool and the editor of the Oregon Statesman. To this home-thrust at "Asahel's" most vulnerable and vital spot, neither Grover nor Drew made reply, tho' both of them replied to other portions of Pengra's last remarks. This was certainly too ungrateful in his quondam friends. Indeed, they seemed to feel that any attempt at a defense would not only be a bootless effort, but that they might themselves be liable to be considered *particeps criminis* with their *Jupiter Tonans* of the press.—They took excellent care to give any allusion to him the go by. Grover especially is said to be extremely anxious to have it understood in all places outside of Salem and its immediate vicinity, that he has severed his connection with "Bush & Co.," and will not, in any event, be burdened with him and his iniquities. His conduct at this meeting looks like there was truth in the rumor. There is certainly policy in such a line of behavior on Mr. G's part. But how very ungrateful of these two worthies (Grover and Drew) whom the Statesman has made to adopt such a course! We all remember how they would fire up at such a charge upon the sore spot of their friend a few years ago. In the Legislature and out of it, they couldn't bear half a whisper to his detriment without working themselves into a black passion in his defense. But now the mighty has fallen, and they rather seek to be considered as assisting to kick the dead lion than otherwise.

Southern M. E. Church in Oregon.

Ed. ARGUS: Not until the present time has the communication of O. Fisher, "P. E. San Francisco District, Cal.," published in the Argus of July 16, come under my observation, in which he sets forth the principles and rules of the Southern Methodist Church.

In this communication the old gentlemen takes ground that the church of Christ should have nothing to do with political matters. Slavery being a political institution, the church should be neither opposed to nor in favor of it—at least, should take no action for or against it. This, as I understand him, is the ground upon which he bases his Southern Church. Now, sir, is this a correct position, or is it false? If true, we ought to know and respect it. If false, it ought to be repudiated by all—Fisher as well as the rest of mankind. Shall the church take action upon no institution regulated by legal enactments? To my mind there is not a more absurd and corrupt dogma in existence than this. Whisky selling is regulated by law, therefore a christian church must not silence a minister or suspend a member for grog selling! In most of the States the observance of the Sabbath is regulated by law, therefore the church must take no ground in favor of Sabbath keeping! Marriage is regulated by law, therefore the church should not expel a polygamist! These and a thousand others are political questions, and according to daddy Fisher's theory are out of the reach of legitimate church jurisdiction. How contemptible such stuff!

But perhaps he and his brethren by this time (I call all his brethren who believe with him) are disposed to qualify the proposition, and instead of saying the church has no "authority to entertain, discuss, or meddle with any State or political question whatever," say that any practice, habit, or action tolerated or suffered by the State, should also be tolerated by the church. And this would be only conceding to a set of profligate legislators, it might be, the right to determine for the church the moral character of all actions, and to say who should be in the church and who out of it.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have always understood that the church was intended to be a light to the world—legislators as well as the rest of mankind—to set them an example of piety and purity, and not wait for civil authorities to tell it what is holy and what unholy. Is the State to be a light to the church? Not according to Christ. The church should go forward in these matters and show the balance of the world how to act. That is her mission on earth. If the whole church would come out on the right side of any great question involving the interest of men the civil authorities would not be long in following their example; but a corrupt and backslidden church stands in the way.

As to the idea of organizing a Southern Methodist Church in Oregon, I have no objection whatever. It will have several good tendencies. First, it will wake up investigation into the moral character of American slavery—it will cause discussion of this subject, which has heretofore been kept down. Second, it will purify the other churches—draw off a kind of moral sleg that pervades all the churches in Oregon. Let all those who believe that human bondage—American slavery—is a heaven-appointed institution—that it is a blessing to slaves, whether white or black, and who believe their God has pleasure in it—collect around daddy Fisher's standard and form a Southern Methodist Church, and it will relieve the church of Christ of much that is injurious. The church in Oregon needs such a purifying process.

I am sorry the old man was not more persevering at Eugene City. By proper effort at that place he certainly might have organized as large a class (*four persons*) as he did at Corvallis. I would suppose that he might have got bro. Jo Teal, R. M. Powers, Dr. Patterson, and Tom Holland; and I would recommend Tom as class leader.

VERITAS.

EUGENE CITY, Aug. 8, 1859.

CALIFORNIA POLITICS.

Occasionally during a political canvass in Oregon, we find in some California paper a paragraph like this: "The papers from Oregon are all filled with violent political stuff, and nothing else." Sometimes a homily is read to us on our evil ways by some dainty San Francisco journal filled entirely with "original matter," that horror of the well-balanced order of readers. Just now, however, Oregon enjoys a period of comparative quiet in political matters, while our neighbors to the south of us are in the full tide of a campaign in politics of unexampled violence, and their papers berate one another in a style that would do no discredit in that line to an Oregon journal. It may be exciting and amusing to them, but to an 'outsider' their "violent political stuff" is as distasteful as the platitudes of John Breeson in favor of Indian Aid Associations in the East are to an old Oregonian.

Godey's Lady's Book.

This excellent family periodical, so well known to all intelligent readers throughout the Union, appears to be growing in favor with each succeeding year. No lady should be without it. The Lady's Book can be had of J. W. Sullivan, agent, San Francisco, at \$4 per year.

Harper's Magazine.

The July number of Harper's Monthly has been laid on our table. It is filled as usual with choice matter, to suit all classes of readers. J. W. Sullivan, San Francisco, is agent for this popular magazine, of whom it can be obtained at \$4 per year.

Freeman & Co's Express

has our thanks for late papers by the steamer.

ARRIVAL OF THE EASTERN MAIL.

PEACE DECLARED!!!

AUSTRIA CONCEDES LOMBARDY!

Venice Preserved!!!

DEATH OF RUFUS CHOATE!

The mail steamer reached Portland yesterday morning about 6 o'clock, bringing papers from New Orleans to the 27th of July. The most important item is that of the declaration of peace in Europe between France and Austria! An armistice was concluded on the 7th of July between the contending powers, and on the 11th Napoleon sent the following dispatch to the Empress Eugenie:

"A treaty of peace has been signed between the Emperor of Austria and Napoleon, on the following basis. The Italian Confederacy to be under the honorary Presidency of the Pope. The Emperor of Austria concedes his rights in Lombardy to the Emperor of the French, who transfers them to the King of Sardinia. The Emperor of Austria preserves Venice, but she will form an integral part of the Italian Confederacy."

PARIS, July 13.—The Paris Monitor says that the great neutral powers exchanged communications with the belligerents, offering mediation, but were unsuccessful until the French fleet were about commencing operations against Venice, and a conflict before Verona was imminent, when Napoleon, finding the Emperor of Austria willing, concluded the armistice.

The Emperors had an interview at Villafraanca on the 11th inst. A dispatch from Turin says Napoleon issued a bulletin from Vallegio, announcing the armistice, congratulating the troops upon their exploits, and announcing his immediate departure for Paris, leaving the provisional command of the army to Marshal Vaillant.

THE AUSTRIAN ACCOUNT.

LONDON, July 13.—A dispatch from Verona says that the armistice was concluded only after repeated requests from the French, and after Austria had obtained all she asked.

KOSSUTH AND HUNGARY.

LONDON July 14.—It is reported that Kossuth would propose for a monarchical government for Hungary.

OPINIONS OF THE ENGLISH PRESS.

LONDON, July 13.—The London News says that the hopes and expectations of Italy have been deceived, and that history will call Napoleon to account for making war upon false pretences, and then signing a weak and selfish peace that leaves Austria impregnable fortified in the heart of Northern Italy, and commits Central Italy to the patronage of the Pope.

The London Post contends that the Pope is deprived of all substance, but keeps the shadow of supremacy. The London Times says that France has spent fifty million pounds and lost fifty thousand men, only to give Milan a Piedmontese master, and establish the Pope in temporary dignity, even beyond his imagination.

THE NEWS OF PEACE IN PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, June 13.—The news of the peace was received with prolonged cheers in the Houses of Lords and Commons.

The King of Prussia is about to abdicate. It is undetermined whether the Prince Regent or his son shall take the crown. Oscar, King of Sweden, has lately died.

SUMMARY OF HOME NEWS.

Daniel E. Sikes has been reconciled to his wife, and they are now living together again. This act of his has aroused the indignation of his friends, and he has published a letter in justification of himself.

Hon. W. H. Seward has been received with marked courtesy by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

It is said that Jefferson Davis is preparing a bill to bring forward during the next session of Congress, to repeal the laws against the slave trade.

The St. Louis Republican says that Hon. Augustus Caesar Dodge accepts the nomination of the Democratic Convention of Iowa for Governor.

The San Juan Island Dispute.

PROCLAMATION OF GOV. DOUGLAS.

By James Douglas, C. B., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the colony of Vancouver's Island and its vicinity, Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

The sovereignty of the Island of San Juan and of the whole of the Haro Archipelago has always been undeviatingly claimed to be in the crown of Great Britain. Therefore, I, James Douglas, do hereby formally and solemnly protest against the occupation of the said island, or any part of the said archipelago by any person whatsoever for or on behalf of any other power hereby protesting that the sovereignty thereof by right now is and always has been in Her Majesty Queen Victoria and her predecessors, Kings of Great Britain.

Given under my hand and seal at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, on the second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and in the twenty-third year of Her Majesty's reign.

JAMES DOUGLAS.

GEN. HARNEY'S REPLY.

Head Quarters, Department of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, W. T., August 6, 1859.

His Excellency James Douglas, C. B., Governor of Vancouver's Island, Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you of the receipt of an official copy of a protest made by you to the occupation of San Juan Island, in Puget Sound, by a company of United States troops under my command.

This aforesaid copy was furnished by Capt. Hornby, of Her Majesty's ship Tribune, to the United States officer in command at San Juan Island, Capt. George Pickett, of the 9th Infantry of the American army; together with a communication threatening a joint occupation of the San Juan Island by the forces of Her Majesty's ships Tribune, Plumper, and Satellite, now in the harbor of that island by your order.

As the military commander of the Department of Oregon, assigned to that command by the orders of the President of the United States, I have the honor to state for your information that by such authority invested in me I placed a military command upon the Island of San Juan to protect the American citizens residing on that island from the insults and indignities which the British authorities of Vancouver's Island and the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company have recently offered them, by sending a British ship-of-war from Vancouver's Island to convey the Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company to San Juan for the purpose of seizing an American citizen and forcibly transporting him to Vancouver's Island to be tried by British law.

I have reported this attempted outrage to my Government, and they will doubtless seek the proper redress from the British Government. In the mean time, I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I shall not permit a repetition of that insult, and shall retain a command on San Juan Island, to protect its citizens in the name of the United States, until I receive further orders from my Government.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, W. S. HARNEY, Brigadier General United States Army, commanding.

Reasons for Occupying San Juan.

We are in receipt of a letter from a gentleman of intelligence, who is well posted touching the military occupancy of San Juan by our troops, and is conversant (as familiarly as any one outside of the General who directs) with the objects sought by this movement.—Advertiser.

"Gen. Harney placed troops on the island of San Juan to protect our citizens against the threatened attacks of northern Indians and unlawful acts of British officials. The island is most admirably situated to enable a small force to prevent Indians from entering the Sound. Gen. Harney knows that the British authorities at Vancouver's Island pretend to a claim to San Juan, but he does not in the recent act mean to deny their right to a reference of the matter. He simply proposes to occupy the island from a strong public necessity. It was only the other day that Gov. Douglas sent over a ship of war with the Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company to take an American citizen by force from his home on San Juan to Vancouver's Island to be tried by British laws for some alleged offence. And if the American had not been made of the proper stuff he would have been wrested from his home, and perhaps now be on the way to some distant penal colony!—This island was threatened with an irruption by northern Indians! The American citizens on the island presented their complaints to Gen. Harney, who visited the island in person. What should he have done? Let the island be depopulated? Give it up to the Hudson's Bay Company, that is now grasping at all our best lands? He did just what an American General should have done. He placed a force there to protect our citizens, and he meant to keep a sufficient one there to effect the object. He is right and will be sustained by all in authority.

Mr. Hiram Terwilliger, son of Jas. Terwilliger, living a short distance south of this place, has for many years past been diseased and deformed in the bones of the month. Yesterday Dr. Loryea, with the assistance of Dr. Hawthorne, and in the presence of Drs. Wilson, Davenport, Belknap, and Campbell, performed an operation upon his mouth by removing a section of the lower jaw, after which the patient was enabled to open his mouth for the first time for fourteen years. The operation is considered one of the most successful ever performed in Oregon. The patient was under the influence of chloroform, and was insensible to pain during the operation.—Portland Advertiser, Aug. 17.

WHEAT CROPS.

The wheat crops in this vicinity have generally yielded better than was anticipated some time since. The crops, however, as compared with former years, are reported to be light. Some large yields are reported. One field of forty acres in this county, belonging to Mr. J. B. Congle, of this place, turned off 1100 bushels, an average of 27½ per acre. The wheat is said to be of the first quality, being free from smut and other impurities. We have heard of some larger yields, but have not the particulars. No demonstration is needed to prove that Oregon is not excelled as a wheat growing country.—Corvallis Union.

Sewing Machines.

Those Boston Family Sewing Machines expected by Mr. Post have arrived. They can be had at the City Book Store.