

BY D. W. CRAIG.
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The Oregon Argus.

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THE CONFISCATION BILL.—Henry Winter Davis, of Maryland, has written an able letter in favor of the constitutionality of the Confiscation Bill recently passed by Congress, although he considers the bill somewhat defective in some of its provisions. His conclusions are summed up as follows:
1. That there is no prohibition in the Constitution against making confiscation a penalty for any crime.

THE DEAD AT ISLAND No. 10.—Letters have recently been received at Rochester from General Quincy, stating, as illustration of the panic and flight of the rebels at the evacuation of Island No. 10, that his troops found in the marshes in the rear of Tiptonville the dead bodies of over three hundred rebels, who had miserably perished by drowning and miring in the swamps, in their mad haste to escape from imagined pursuers. It was surmised that large numbers would be yet found, who had died in the same ignominious manner.

THE WAR DEBT, according to Hon. H. J. Davis, actually incurred by Mr. Lincoln up to the present time is \$651,170,000, or \$704,579,000 less than is estimated by Mr. Voorces, the friend and supporter of James Buchanan. Mr. Davis further proves from record that taking the civil expenditures of the two Administrations, Mr. Buchanan in his first year spent \$10,000,000 more than Mr. Lincoln; in his second year \$7,000,000 more; in his third year \$2,000,000 more; and in his fourth year \$173,000. The Nashville Union wonders why Mr. Davis did not read Mr. Buchanan's friend of the Utah war. The cost of that famous war, consisting of one expedition, under General Albert Sidney Johnston, was something over \$4,000,000. Now, if one expedition of say 10,000 men cost Mr. Buchanan \$4,000,000 a very simple calculation will show that more than a dozen expeditions of upwards of 100,000 men, in the 27 years, would have cost the Sage of Wheatland, the particular idol of the economical Voorces and the virtuous Vain-fighter, the handsome sum of \$2,385,000,000—or two thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight millions of dollars. We have Mr. Voorces to show how Mr. Buchanan would have paid this debt. Perhaps his Secretary, John B. Floyd, could have devised some plan, or he might have adopted Jefferson Davis's plan and repudiated it.

THE PARISIAN correspondent of the New York Commercial says the French official journals publishes with astonishment the following figures with regard to the funds in the United States. In October last, says this paper, Treasury notes at New York were \$6; three months later they were at 92; on the 8th of May, 1862, they were at par, and now at the last date, the 17th, they were at 105.—"Such figures as these," remarks the Monitor, "are more eloquent than words," and it might have added, such figures were never before exhibited by any nation with a colossal war on its shoulders. The people of Europe are at last waking up to the fact that America is waging a war such as no other nation in the world is capable of, and every day the governments of Europe are fixing their eyes with more attention upon the immense developments of the struggle. The new scientific facts in the art of war which each combat establishes are not less curious to them than the immense energy and endurance of the people. It seems as if we needed this war in order to gain our proper status among the nations of the earth, for in Europe nations are measured only by the strength of their arms on the field of battle.

THE DIFFERENCE.—There are two classes of Democrats; those who are determined to save the Union though they kill the party and slavery, and those who are determined to save the party and slavery though they kill the Union. The former are patriots whom we love; the latter, covet traitors or sneaks whom we despise.—Margville Appeal.

NISARAGUA ROUTE.—The steamship Moses Taylor is advertised to sail from San Francisco on Tuesday, Oct. 21st via Nicaragua. This is the reopening of the line.

When is a lawyer like an ass? When he is "drawing a conveyance."
The orange that is too hard squeezed yields a bitter juice.

The following correspondence between the President and the Governors of several States, and the President of the Military Board of Kentucky, will be read with interest:

To the President: The undersigned Governors of States of the Union, impressed with the belief that the citizens of the States which they respectively represent are of one accord in the hearty desire that the recent successes of the Federal arms may be followed up by measures which must ensure the speedy restoration of the Union, and believing that in view of the important military movements now in progress, and the reduced condition of our effective forces in the field, resulting from the usual and unavoidable casualties of the service, that the time has arrived for prompt and vigorous measures to be adopted by the people in support of the great interests committed to your charge, we respectfully request, if it meets with your entire approval, that you at once call upon the several States for such number of men as may be required to fill up all the military organization now in the field, and add to the armies heretofore organized such additional number of men, as may, in your judgment, be necessary to garrison and hold all the numerous cities and military positions that have been captured by our armies, and to speedily crush the rebellion that still exists in several of the Southern States; thus practically restoring to the civilized world our great and good Government. All believe that the decisive moment is near at hand, and to that end the people of the United States are desirous and promptly in furnishing all reinforcements that you may deem useful to sustain our Government.

The above address was signed by the Governors of the loyal States, including the Governors of Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, and Missouri, and by the President of the Military Board of Kentucky. The President responded as follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, July 1.
GENTLEMEN: Fully endorsing in the wisdom of the views expressed to me in so patriotic a manner by you in the communication of the 28th day of June, I have directed to call into the service an additional force of three hundred thousand men. I suggest and recommend that the troops should be chiefly of infantry. The quota of your State would be — I trust that they may be enrolled without delay, so as to bring this necessary and glorious civil war to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion. An order fixing the quota of the respective States will be issued by the War Department tomorrow.

OUR IRON-CLAD NAVY.—The position of the country at the present moment is so intimately connected with the power of our navy that we have taken pains to ascertain precisely how far we have advanced with our iron-clad vessel-war. A statement was made by several of our contemporaries recently, relative to the laying of an iron keel at Jersey City, which has led the public to suppose that a vessel of a novel character was contemplated. So far from that being the case, the vessel commenced with such a flourish was simply the laying of the ninth keel of the Monitor fleet.—These vessels are two hundred feet long, forty-six feet beam, and all constructed on plans furnished by Captain Ericsson, and so perfectly alike that any part removed from any one vessel will fit its appropriate place in any of the others.

The history of naval engineering furnishes no precedent for a system so perfect, and much credit must be awarded to the Secretary of the Navy for having inaugurated it. The advantages are manifest, and derive additional importance from the fact that before the detail of the machinery and vessels of the Monitor fleet was decided upon, the Department caused a very rigorous scrutiny to be made of the operations and efficiency of every part on board of the Monitor. The most skillful engineers and officers were placed in charge of the machinery and vessel. Everything was carefully noted and communicated from time to time to the constructor of the new vessels. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy paid several visits to the Monitor in Hampton Roads and contributed important information. It has been objected that the Engineer-in-Chief is not employed in the construction of the new vessels; but Secretary Welles, to the surprise and annoyance of many, has lately been found to entertain very peculiar notions on all matters connected directly with the efficiency of the navy, among which may be mentioned that of putting "the right man in the right place." The Monitor fleet wanted for the Western rivers—the construction of which has already been ordered—proves the determination of the Department to attain the end by the direct road. J. B. Eads of St. Louis, an engineer of great experience in constructing flat-bottomed iron boats, has obtained the contract for building the pioneer Monitors for the shallow waters of the West, while Ericsson is only employed to furnish plans for their turrets. These Western iron-clads must only draw three and a half feet of water. But no fears need be entertained; the man who has undertaken the work is an expert in building flat-bottomed boats.

he is another "right man in the right place"—(only think of that, Mr. Stanton)—and will no doubt furnish a fleet of vessels suitable for hunting the rebels out of the shallow streams of the West.
Our fleet on nine sea-going Monitors will all be ready next Fall. Early in August we may expect to witness in our bay the trial-trips of several of them. Including the New Ironsides, Whitney's iron boat, the large steel proof iron vessel building at the Morgan Works, and the Ronanoke, with her three turrets and heavy deck and side armor, thirteen iron-clad vessels will be added to those already afloat, without counting the iron-clads now building on the Western rivers. Europe will view with astonishment this prodigious display of energy and mechanical resources. It was supposed that our power would be taxed to the utmost in arming and sustaining an army of seven hundred thousand men, in addition to the cost of maintaining our active fighting vessels and enormous blockading fleets. Yet, while thus vigorously carrying on the greatest war ever known, we have created an impregnable fleet of nearly four hundred vessels of all kinds, and one hundred and thirty thousand seamen, that will enable us to defy all opponents. Our commerce, manufactures and resources are more than double those of England when she carried on a war of fifteen years with Napoleon and came out victorious at last. The rebels are growing weaker every day; the Union feeling is spreading, and we will be ready to defy all the maritime powers of Europe combined in less than two months. Napoleon in Mexico may then look out.—New York Herald.

ACTIVITY IN THE NAVY YARDS.—ROAD CONSTRUCTION OF AN IRON-CLAD NAVY.—The extraordinary activity which is still seen in all our navy yards, is an indication that Government has its eye upon eventualities beyond the existence of the war which is now apparently so near its end.—At the Brooklyn yard there are between 4,000 and 5,000 workmen in full employment, and some 12 or 15 war vessels of the several grades in the process of being built, repaired, or altered. The Charles-town yard employs some 4,000 men; and that at Philadelphia about the same number. What the result of all this activity is to be, may be gathered from the following paragraph from an editorial on our iron-clad navy, which appeared in the N. Y. World:

"Since the passage, by Congress, of the appropriation for supplying the country with these indispensable vessels (the iron-clad,) the Navy Department, for obvious reasons, has avoided all publicity as to what it intended to do. Enough, however, has transpired to enable us to inform the public that, in the opinion of the heads of the Government, next fall, say by October, the United States will be the strongest naval power on earth in the matter of efficient iron-clad vessels. All the available means at the disposal of the Navy Department are now employed, day and night, in completing the vessels that have been commenced. Thirteen iron-clad craft are now under way, embracing a number of improved Monitor-like and more than one powerful steam-ran for ocean use. Next fall may see England and France with a large fleet of mailed ships, but it is believed by officials on this side of the ocean, consistent with the facts, that the American fleet now building will be more than a match for the mailed ships of both those nations combined."

THE RESULT OF THE SIX DAYS' ENGAGEMENT.—A correspondent of Forney's Press, writing from the army, July 4th, says:

Though accomplished at an immense sacrifice of life and property, it is plain that General McClellan's movement has been a grand success. He has changed his front and advanced to the front. By the former, he has rendered entirely useless a series of railroad earthworks built at enormous expense, and sending us in an impregnable position. By the latter, he has released thirty thousand troops from the duty of garrisoning his railroad connection with White House, a body of men never useful in the siege of Richmond, but who now can be employed with great effect in every operation against the enemy. His present position is a strong one. White Oak swamp banks it on the right; the James river, aided by the gunboats, on the left. The distance between cannot be more than eight miles. He is rapidly advancing up the Peninsula, being today beyond Taylor Station, and within twenty-five miles of the old Capital.

The result in our immediate operations against the enemy has been most disastrous. No one can imagine of the havoc wrought by the shells in their ranks in the constant battles from Friday, June 27th, to Friday, the Fourth of July. Our course was to fight the enemy all day and retreat at night. Thousands of them were killed or captured. Every one of our battles was a Federal victory. The contest at White Oak Swamp was one of the bloodiest battles on record. Four lines of rebels were drawn up in front of our position. The second regiment first upon the sea of flame and smoke at the point of the bayonet, but it was of no avail. Scarcely a man lived to tell the tale in either line, and the third and fourth, defying all the curses of their officers, thinking only of the glory they wished to avoid, broke and fled, and left a mass of the field. Mangled shot and cannon ball and gunshot shell poured constantly into rebellion for a week. It almost sickens me to write it, but Napoleon never caused more blood to flow than has streamed from the rebel army during this grand retreat.

McClellan's Address to His Army.—On the 11th, Gen. McClellan issued the following address to his army.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, CAMP SEAN HARRIS'S LANDING, Friday, July 4, 1862.
Soldiers of the Army of the Potomac! Your achievements of the last ten days have illustrated the valor and endurance of the American soldier. Attacked by superior forces, and without hope of re-enforcements, you have succeeded in changing your base of operations by a flank movement, always regarded as the most hazardous of military experiments.

You have saved all your material, all your trains, and all your guns except a few lost in battle, taking in return guns and colors from the enemy. Upon your march you have been assailed day after day with desperate fury by men of the same race and nation skillfully misused and led. Under every disadvantage of number, and, necessarily of position also, you have in every conflict beaten back your foes with enormous slaughter. Your conduct ranks you among the celebrated armies of history. No one will now question that each of you may always with pride say: "I belong to the Army of the Potomac." You have reached the new base complete in organization, and unimpaired in spirit. The enemy may at any time attack you. We are prepared to meet them. I have personally established your lines. Let them come and we will convert their repulse into a final defeat. Your Government is strengthening you with the resources of a great people. On this, our nation's birthday, we declare to our foes, who are rebels against the best interests of mankind, that this army shall enter the capital of the so-called Confederacy; that our National Constitution shall prevail; and that the Union, which can alone insure internal peace and external security to each, "must and shall be preserved," cost what it may in time, treasure, and blood.
Geo. B. McClellan.

THE AMERICAN FLAG.—If any man attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot!—Gen. Dix.

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W. E. Adams, Editor.
OREGON CITY:
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1862.

NEGRO SOLDIERS.

There seems to be an impression gaining ground in all the loyal States that if the rebels are determined to prolong the war by guerrilla operations, and by using their slaves to destroy our soldiers, it is about time that the Government quit returning contrabands to be flogged into service against us, and begin to use them as a means of prosecuting the war with a vigor that shall convince the barbarians of Dixie that we are earnest in our efforts to bring the rebels back to obedience to law, or falling in that, that we intend to bring the soil back into the Union at all events. We have already published portions of a speech made by Gen. Rousseau of Kentucky at Louisville, in which he boldly avows the opinion that if slavery is to be made the main prop to the rebellion, as he believes it is, the Federal Government must not hesitate a moment to knock this underpinning from under the "Confederacy."

The question is now being asked by many, "What sort of soldiers would the niggers make?" From the meager accounts of their exploits in the war of the Revolution, the war of 1812, and Nat Turner's insurrection in Virginia in 1831, we are inclined to believe that when properly officered no more efficient fighting men can be found. In 1814, Jackson mastered into the United States service such free negroes as were willing to enlist, and found them in nothing behind his white soldiers in achieving the victories that immortalized his name and covered his army with glory.

We saw it stated in an old history of Commodore Perry's victory over Com. Barclay's British squadron on Lake Erie, September, 1813, that more than one-fourth of Perry's men were negroes. This great battle, in which the incentives to the contest were, "the issue of a campaign, the mastery of a sea, the glory and renown of two rival nations, matched for the first time in squadron," was decided in three hours by the capture of all the six vessels composing the opposing squadron—the first occurrence of the kind ever recorded.—The history of the world contains no record of more heroic courage, unimitable coolness, and reckless daring than was exhibited by every soldier who took part in that contest. The terrific storm of molten lead and iron ball that riddled the Lawrence, though it shattered her masts, cut away her rigging, knocked in her bulwarks, and covered her decks four inches deep with blood and shattered remains, was not enough to intimidate a soul on board, every one of whom stood to his post doing his duty till all excepting four or five out of a crew of more than a hundred men were stretched in death on her decks. The first broadside Perry poured into the British flagship frightened two Indian chiefs whom Com. Barclay had stationed aloft as sharpshooters, till they came lumbering down on deck and stowed themselves safely away in the hold, where they remained till the fight was over. Perry's negro soldiers evinced no such fears, but conducted themselves with such remarkable coolness and bravery that it settled the fact that a negro is every way superior as a soldier to an Indian. Perhaps Jim Lane's negro regiment is designed to ferret out the Missouri guerrillas, and run Pike's Indians into the woods. If so, the savages, white and red, will get whipped.

GENEROUS FOR CALIFORNIA.—The Washington correspondent of the Bulletin says that the contract has already been let for the building of an iron gunboat of the "Monitor" pattern, but of a much larger size, the cost of which will be about \$540,000. She is intended for the defense of San Francisco harbor.

WE need a similar boat for the mouth of the Columbia River, but for some reason our delegation in Congress has never yet been able to secure any great favors of this kind for the State that so long persisted in sending Jo Lane to Washington.—Now that we have succeeded in electing a sound man to Congress, with a fair chance to elect a man of long-tried integrity and sound politics to the United States Senate, we may expect to urge our claims with some prospect of success. One such active, energetic, and untiring man as Latham is worth more in Washington than a regiment of such men as wish to go to Congress merely for the honor of the thing and to pocket the salary.

NEW ORLEANS, June 12.
You ask what shall be done with guerrillas. They should be captured, tried at the drum-head by military commission, and every man shot, their houses burnt, their property destroyed, and every means taken to show them that they are enemies of the human race, not soldiers but murderers and law breakers. There is only one way in which you can err towards them and that is by a want of prompt severity.
By order of Maj. Gen. Butler.
R. R. DAVIS.

NEW BOAT.—We learned yesterday on the streets, that the machinery for a new steam boat, to be placed between Astoria, Vancouver and the Cascades, has been ordered.—Times.

A hard row to hoe.—Sorow.



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The Oregon State Fair.

We have already apprised our readers that the second Oregon State Fair will take place at Salem, commencing on the last Tuesday of September next, and continue four days. To Clackamas county will ever be accorded the distinguished honor of having furnished the means for holding the first Oregon State Fair,—and which was creditable alike to our citizens, to the State Agricultural Society, and to the State. A commencement was thus made of yearly exhibitions of our stock, agricultural productions, articles of mechanism, of household economy, of illustrations of the natural history of our State, &c.—which was well attended, and which we are sure has been productive of great good. That Fair, so successful and gratifying in its results, we are confident will be much improved upon at that which will be held in Marion county some four weeks from this date.

At the last Fair, large numbers of people—farmers and other citizens—joined with us to make it a success. We want now our farmers and others to repay to Marion—in sending our stock, our productions of the farm and the house—a full return for the kindness they extended us at that Fair. It will be held at a time of the year when the heavy labors of the season are over, and when families—the husband, wife, and children—with a little preparation, can get into their wagons, go to the Fair, camp out, and enjoy a week's time in a healthful, pleasing, useful employment that will "blend instruction with delight." Our farmers and their families have worked hard the present season, and the proposed relaxation from labor will invigorate them for the duties that are to follow. Surely the farmers of Oregon, in their business, in their social privileges, cannot but be benefited by such an exhibition and such a gathering as will be witnessed at Salem.—We want to see a long string of wagons go up from Clackamas county to Salem at the coming Fair, loaded with our people; we want to see them camped out in the most comfortable manner; we want to see the men and boys examining the stock—the cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, and poultry—we want to see them investigating the merits of the agricultural machinery, the fruits, grains, rare vegetables—we want to see them examining the specimens of rocks, minerals, birds, animals, &c., illustrating the natural history of our State—we want to see our women scanning the rich specimens of butter and cheese, admiring the handwork of fairy fingers—and all making themselves generally happy.

Why should not the hardy sons and daughters of toil have at least one week in the whole year when, leaving their cares behind, they may come together, renew old acquaintances, form new ones, and have together what may be called the FARMERS' GREAT GALA DAY—a general good time. Farmers of Clackamas and of other counties, won't you go and take your boys and girls to the Fair, and let them see something new and interesting, which will reward them for the toils of the past, and give them new incentives for action and industry in the future?

MR BRIDE AND GUNS.—The following description of the Representative and Governor elect, is taken from correspondence of the Sacramento Union. The writer is unknown to us, but his remarks are in the main truthful and just:

John R. McBride, the Representative elect to Congress, is a native of Franklin county, Missouri, is a lawyer by profession, and resides at Lafayette, in Yamhill county. He is about twenty-nine or thirty years of age, and originated to Oregon with his father (at that time a somewhat noted Campbellite minister) in the year 1846.—When he first entered into politics it was as a candidate of the Whig party for a county office, to which he was elected.—About the year 1853, he began the study of law, and has occupied a respectable position at the bar since he entered upon his active duties. Such was the confidence felt in him by his friends, that before he was admitted to the practice he was nominated by the party to which he belonged for the responsible position of District Attorney—a nomination which he had the distinction to decline. When the election in 1857 took place for members to of a Convention to frame a State Constitution, McBride was chosen by a large majority to represent the people of Yamhill county in that body. He entered the Convention the youngest member in it, and the only one it elected as a Republican—so I have been informed. He served with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. In 1858 he was nominated by the Republican organization—then in its infancy—as a candidate for Representative to Congress. He accepted the nomination, but before the close of the campaign, withdrew his name. He made, however, during the canvass of that year, several speeches, which gave him a character for ability and power, which has been the basis of his subsequent influence. In 1860 he was elected to the State Senate from his county, and during the protracted and exciting session, which resulted in the election of E. D. Baker and J. W. Nesmith as United States Senators, over Jo Lane and Delazon Smith, he exercised a great and controlling influ-