

THE STATE REPUBLICAN.

"The struggle of to-day is not altogether for to-day, it is for the vast future also."

J. M. GALE, - - - - - Editor.

EUGENE CITY, SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1862.

THE HOMESTEAD LAW.

In an other column we publish the Homestead bill which has at last become a law. Ten years ago the first bill passed the House, and it has been from that time urgently pressed upon the attention of Congress, until, under the present magnanimous Congress and Administration, it has received that notice due so great an object.

The bill passed is a complete homestead act. The following is a synopsis of its provisions: All the lands owned by the Government are open to settlement under it in quantities not exceeding 160 acres to each person.

Any person who is a citizen of the United States, or has declared intention to become such, who is 21 years old, or the head of a family, or has served in the military or naval service during this rebellion, can make the entry on payment of ten dollars, and the fees of the Register and Receiver of the Land Office. That is all the settler has to pay at any time.

The act takes effect the 1st of January next, and requires a residence and cultivation of five years to perfect the title.

Any person can enter, under this act, land on which he has a pre-emption claim.

No measure has ever been enacted by our national law makers of more vital interest to the honest and industrious poor than this. And at the same time it provides for the speedy settlement and consequently enhanced value of all the vacant territory which offers a reward to the laborer. And the tax revenue arising from the settlement and cultivation and increase in value of these lands will in a very short time more than pay to the Government the usual entry price, while it will be furnishing homes to thousands of industrious families who are not able to pay down a sum of \$100 or \$200.

This bill would have become a law years ago but for the determined opposition of the slave power which ruled Congress. Southern Senators saw in it a barrier to the extension of their beloved institution into the Territories. It required no extraordinary intellect to comprehend the fact, that slavery would not flourish in a country cut up into quarter section tracts, and liable to be settled alike by the New Englander, the Southerner or the hardy pioneer of the West. It was denounced by the fire-eaters as "offering a premium to Abolition squatters," and opposed by such willing tools of the Southern nabobs as the imbecile old creature who so long disgraced Oregon in the Halls of Congress, (and whose very name we now propose to disown, since justice rules.)

The provisions of the law are such that under its bounty our Territories will be settled by a loyal and virtuous people. The new settlements being characterized by a healthy tone of morals in the outset, will in a very short time lead the van of civilization, and make the great West the emporium of true refinement, giving a new impetus to the onward march of American progress.

MCKENZIE ROAD.—By the kindness of H. M. Ellsworth we are permitted to publish a letter from Hon. R. E. Stratton, which suggests to us that we cannot move too early in the work of opening a road over the mountain on the most direct line to Powder river mines.

This is a subject of vital importance to all living in this vicinity, and we hope that the citizens will lay hold of the work with ready hands and willing hearts until it is accomplished. It is proposed to call a general meeting for the furthering of this object, to be held in the Court House in this place, the 5th of next month. Let all turn out who feel interested in the enterprise, which is one of no little importance.

C. H. MILLER, formerly of Mossman & Miller's Express to Salmon, has now the editorial charge and is also assistant publisher of the Democratic Register. From his salutatory, we don't discover any material difference in sentiment from that of O'Meara, who used the paper through the past campaign to very little purpose, as one would use a small switch, cutting and slashing at the supporters of the Government over the shoulders of the "Abolitionists." Personally we have the best of feelings towards the editor, and hope that experience and a careful study of the public sentiment of this community will lead him to improve the tone of the paper, which has not yet been known to give indications of joy at Federal victories or regret at rebel successes.

FOURTH OF JULY.—We have not heard of any arrangements being completed for a celebration of that memorable day in this immediate vicinity. It is proposed, however, to fire the cannon 34 rounds anyhow, and let the folks know that we have not lost all our patriotism.

Nelson Luckey is making preparations for a ball that evening, and we anticipate a good time. Wm. Moody will play the violin on the occasion. Let the girls and "Salmon widders" all have a chance.

No eastern news for the last twelve or fourteen days, the trouble being storms and high water on the Plains. Measures are being adopted which will doubtless put us in possession of news shortly.

CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION.

The Union Administration State Convention, which met at Sacramento on the 17th and adjourned on the 18th inst., did things up in truly loyal style. They nominated for Superintendent of public instruction, John Swett, of San Francisco, a man of eminent qualifications, and a descendant of a noble old Revolutionary soldier. In defining his position, he said:

I am a Union man. I always have been. I should be recreant to my race if I were not, for my grandfather was a good Union man who shouldered his musket in defense of the Constitution and Government under George Washington; his bones would rise up before me if every fiber of my body were not Union.

Mr. Swett is Principal of the Rincon Grammar School, San Francisco, and has proved himself one of the most eminent Superintendents in that great city.

A State Central Committee was elected, consisting of four from San Francisco—Wm. Sherman, Alfred Barstow, Alex. G. Abell, James De la Montanya, and seventeen others, one from each Judicial District in the State. The following platform was adopted by unanimous acclamation:

1. Resolved, That we heartily endorse the present National Administration, and hereby pledge ourselves to sustain it in all its efforts to preserve the Union.

2. Resolved, That we are in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war, without regard to cost or sacrifice, until the last armed rebel is disarmed and the supremacy of the National Government acknowledged in every State and Territory of the Union.

3. Resolved, That we have no sympathy with any party or person who advocates a peace on any terms while there is an enemy of the Union in open rebellion against the Government; and that such a peace would prove to be but a hollow truce, leading again to rebellion and war, and would be a lasting disgrace to us and to our country.

4. Resolved, That every citizen of the United States owes an allegiance to the National Government which is paramount to his allegiance to any State, and that any other doctrine would be repugnant to the Constitution and to every principle upon which our Government is founded.

5. Resolved, That since the inauguration of the present National Administration, all issues hereofore dividing the loyal people of the different political parties have been settled, and the only issue now before the country is Union or disunion.

6. Resolved, That we call upon all loyal citizens of this State to unite with us in a Union party which shall place California where she of right belongs—high in the rank of States, ready to sacrifice all to preserve the rich heritage of liberty, bequeathed to us by our forefathers.

M'Kenzie Wagon Road.—Letter from Hon. R. E. Stratton.

DALLAS CITY, June 21, 1862. DEAR SIR: When I left Eugene there was a movement on foot to open a road through the Cascades to the valley of the Des Chutes. Since I arrived in Portland and this place I have seen and heard enough to make it certain the road cannot be opened too soon. Much of the immigration is again turned in that direction. I have seen large amounts of gold from these mines and there is no longer room to doubt of their richness. Several pack trains have left here in the last few days, loaded by men who have dug the gold, by which their purchases had been made, in those places. From the character of the metal there is every reason to believe that the prospect for a large yield in that quarter is as good or better than in the direction of Salmon river. If so, our citizens cannot be too prompt in opening the route up the McKenzie. Of course, farmers and tradesmen must fully understand its importance to Eugene. The stories of failure and disgust of the northern mines I think is much exaggerated. I have met but few who have not returned from the mines with substantial evidence of their richness. There are many returning, it is true, who have never seen the mining district; their testimony, of course, is worth nothing. The summer's yield will certainly be larger and demonstrate their wealth. All will not make money, and who ever saw the mines where they did? I drop you a line in hopes that a word in season may serve to stimulate some to push the opening of the M'Kenzie road before the summer passes away.

Very truly yours, R. E. STRATTON. H. M. Ellsworth, Esq., Eugene City, Ogn.

ARKANSAS ABOUT TO BOLT.—Governor Reector, of Arkansas, has issued an address to the people of that State, in which he bitterly complains of neglect by the lords of the "Southern Confederacy," and intimates in the following language that Arkansas will hie her own row soon, if she does not receive better attention:

If the arteries of the Confederate heart do not permeate beyond the east bank of the Mississippi, let Southern Missourians, Aankansians, Texans, and the Great West know it and prepare for the future. Arkansas lost, abandoned, subjugated, is not Arkansas as she entered the Confederate Government. Nor will she remain Arkansas a Confederate State, desolated as a wilderness; her children fleeing from the wrath to come, will build them a new ark and launch it on new waters, seeking a haven somewhere of equality, safety and rest.

Most probably she will seek that haven in Abraham's bosom. For he still declares that, While the lamp holds out to burn The vilest sinner may return.

The Washington correspondent of the Sacramento Union says that the passage of the Pacific Railroad bill in the Senate is a certain thing, and would have been accomplished some time ago but that the Tax bill is ahead of it.

THE HOMESTEAD BILL.

The following is a correct copy of the Homestead Bill as passed by both Houses of Congress, and signed by the President: An Act to Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain, and to Provide a Bounty for Soldiers in lieu of Grants of the Public Lands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled: That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government, or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the 1st of January, 1863, be entitled to one quarter section, or a less quantity, of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a pre-emption claim, or which may, at the time the application is made, be subject to pre-emption at \$1 25, or less, per acre; or eighty acres or less of such unappropriated lands, at \$2 50, per acre, to be located in a body, in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed; provided, that any person owning and residing on land may, under the provisions of this Act, enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not, with the land so owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate 160 acres.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the person applying for the benefit of this Act shall, upon application to the Register of the Land Office in which she or he is about to make such entry, make affidavit before the said Register or Receiver that he or she is the head of a family, or is twenty-one or more years of age, or shall have performed service in the army of the United States, and that he has never borne arms against the Government of the United States or given aid and comfort to its enemies, and that such application is made for his or her exclusive use and benefit, and that said entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not either directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever; and upon filing the said affidavit with the Register or Receiver, and on payment of \$10 he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land specified; provided, however, that no certificate shall be given or patent issued therefor until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry; and if, at the expiration of such time, or at any time within two years thereafter, the person making such entry, or if he be dead, his widow; or in case of her death, his heirs or devisee; or in case of a widow making such entry, her heirs or devisee; in case of her death—shall prove by two credible witnesses that he, she, or they, have resided upon or cultivated the same for the term of five years immediately succeeding the time of filing the affidavit aforesaid, and shall make affidavit that no part of said land has been alienated, and that he has borne true allegiance to the Government of the United States; then, in such case, he, she or they, if at that time a citizen of the United States, shall be entitled to a patent, as in other cases provided for by law: And provided, further, That in case of the death of both father and mother, leaving an infant child, or children under twenty-one years of age, the right and fee shall inure to the benefit of said infant child or children; and the executor, administrator, or guardian may, at any time within two years after the death of the surviving parent, and in accordance with the laws of the State in which such children for the time being have their domicile, sell said lands for the benefit of said infant, but for no other purpose; and the purchaser shall acquire the absolute title by the purchase, and be entitled to a patent from the United States, on payment of the office fees and sum of money herein specified.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the Register of the Land Office shall note all such applications on the tract books and plats of his office, and keep a register of all such entries, and make a return thereof to the General Land Office, together with the proof upon which they have been founded.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That no lands acquired under the provisions of this Act shall in any event become liable to the satisfaction of any debt or debts contracted prior to the issuing of the patent therefor.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That if, at any time after the filing of the affidavit, as required in the section of this Act, and before the expiration of the five years aforesaid, it shall be proven, after due notice to the settler, to the satisfaction of the Register of the Land Office, that the person having filed such affidavit shall have actually changed his or her residence, or abandoned the said land, shall have ceased to occupy said land more than six months at any time, then and in that event the land so entered shall revert to the Government.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That no individual shall be permitted to acquire title to more than one quarter section under the provisions of this Act; and that the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby required to prepare and issue such rules and regulations, consistent with this Act, as shall be necessary and proper to carry its provisions into effect; and that the Registers and Receivers of the several land offices shall be entitled to receive the same compensation for any lands entered under the provisions of this Act that they are now entitled to receive when the same quality of land is entered with money, one-half to be paid by the person making the application at the time of so doing, and the other half on the issue of the certificate by the person to whom it may be issued; but this shall not be construed to enlarge the maximum of compensation now prescribed by law for any Register or Receiver. Provided, that nothing contained in this Act shall be so construed as to impair or interfere in any manner whatever with existing pre-emption rights. And provided further, that all persons who may have filed their applications for a pre-emption right prior to the passage of this Act, shall be entitled to all the privileges of this Act. Provided further, that no person who has served, or may hereafter serve, for a period of not less than fourteen days in the army or navy of the United States, either regular or volunteer, under the laws thereof, during the existence of an actual war, domestic or foreign, shall be deprived of the benefits of this Act on account of not having

attained the age of twenty-one years.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the fifth section of the Act entitled: "An Act in addition to Act more effectually to provide for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States, and for other purposes," approved the 3d of March, in the year 1857, shall extend to all oaths, affirmations and affidavits required or authorized by this Act.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to prevent any person who has availed him or herself of the benefit of the first section of this Act from paying the minimum price, or the price to which the same may have graduated, for the quantity of land so entered at any time before the expiration of the five years, and obtaining a patent therefor from the Government, as in other cases provided by law, on making proof of settlement and cultivation as provided by existing laws granting pre-emption rights.

COAST DEFENSE.—The Washington correspondent of the Sacramento Union, under date of May 18, writes:

The Navy Department has issued specifications for the construction of iron clad, shot proof steam floating batteries, to be two hundred feet extreme length, forty-six feet extreme breadth of beam, and twelve and a half feet total depth, upon the general plan of the Monitor. The iron of the turret is to be eleven inches thick instead of eight as on the Monitor, and to be in eleven thicknesses of one inch each. The turret is to be 21 feet in the clear. The engines and boilers are to be of sufficient capacity and power to propel the battery at least nine sea miles per hour for twelve consecutive hours in fair weather, and the coal bunkers to carry coal for seven days steaming at that rate. I send you by this mail a copy of the blank contract, and full specifications, by which you will perceive that the Government proposes to pay for the battery completely equipped for service and action, except the guns, fuel and ordnance stores, the sum of \$400,000. At the request of Phelps and Sargent, the Navy Department have authorized the specifications to be transmitted to California for bids by our iron men, in the hope that such vessels as are needed for our coast may be constructed there at such price as the Government may be willing to pay. It is obviously impossible, as these gentlemen stated at the Department, for a vessel carrying coal for but seven days to be transmitted around the Horn. The vessels will have to be constructed here and put up there, or constructed by our Californian mechanics after the materials have been shipped out. No matter how good may be the sea going qualities of such a vessel, the coal question decides the practicality of its making the voyage. Undoubtedly the Government will increase the pay for the construction California, having reference to the cost of transmission. Our leading mechanics would do well to examine the specifications, and calculate what they can construct such vessels for, sending proposals to the Navy Department. Such vessels we must have for the Pacific, and we shall get the more readily if they can be built at reasonable rates on our own coast.

The Bread and Butter Arrangement.

To the reading and thinking portion of the Union-loving citizens of this and neighboring counties, we propose to put a few practical questions.

First, Do you desire the continuance of a journal in Eugene, which shall fearlessly and candidly support the general Government, expose and criticize its enemies, and labor for the local and general interests of this country?

Secondly, From the course which the STATE REPUBLICAN has pursued are you satisfied that it fills the above requirements, and is conducted with that amount of ability which should commend itself to the support of all who feel interested in the publication of such a paper?

Thirdly, Are you willing now since the election has been won to the Union cause by the untiring energy, and unsparring liberality of the printer and publisher, to let them go unrewarded for their labor?

We have confidence, fellow-citizens, that you do want such a paper, and we have had many assurances from among you, and from influential persons in different parts of the State, that the REPUBLICAN is such a paper in the understanding of an intelligent community, as the earnest, tho' new labor of the editor in this field, designs to make it. Yet while we freely acknowledge the kindness of many in furnishing the ready means almost unasked for at the time, and of many others who have given us their promise, which is good, we must say that to our personal knowledge there are many true Union men at heart, who are abundantly able, and whose situations are such that they cannot well afford to do without the REPUBLICAN, who from mistaken views of economy, have not yet subscribed. We are also satisfied that the people are too magnanimous to have any disposition to see the printer wronged, or to wish the editor to go without his supper, or the publisher to sink his funds in his benevolent efforts for their good; yet it is dangerous to us if the people forget Esop's fable of the meal tub. Dr. Franklin wisely said "little strokes fall great oaks," and all persons whose avocations is such that they must depend for remuneration of their labor on the little sums which come in from all quarters know the importance of the littles. Therefore we hope that our friends will give the above well-meant questions a second reading and then pass them around.

SCHOOL.—We would call attention to the fact that the term of the district school closes with this week. Miss Boise proposes to go on with a select school at reasonable rates. She has, so far as we learn, given entire satisfaction, and well merits continued employment; besides it is more especially to the interest of the people to continue the school while they are sure of an efficient teacher.

VARIETY OF OPINION.

And where is the advantage gained by the Government to compensate for this mighty loss of blood and treasure? Is the South conquered? No, it never will be, never. What! conquer an American? You had as well try to conquer the waves of the broad Pacific as to conquer an American freeman.—Register.

The Atlanta Confederacy, of March 30th, reports a conversation with a certain Dr. Banks of Savannah, who had just returned from Richmond, and who said:

We are whipped on all sides—everything looks dark and gloomy for us. McCulloch and Price are killed, Columbus and Manassas evacuated, and hell is to pay everywhere! It is not the negro question which is now mooted—it is to know whether the Puritan or Cavalier is to rule this continent. For fifteen years we have been preparing for it, and the Yankees cannot expect to destroy in a day what we have taken so long to prepare.

Col. Forney writes from Washington to the Philadelphia Press:

Not long ago two ladies called at Wheatland, the safe retreat of the man who assisted treason to arm itself in the very sanctuaries of freedom, and while there they were thrown into conversation with the venerable ex-President. Of course the war was soon introduced. In the course of conversation the battle of Fort Donelson was alluded to, when he said: "Ladies, you must not suppose that this victory will end the war; there will be much severe fighting yet, and should our Northern soldiers attempt to go South as the warm season approaches, they will be swept off like rotten sheep! Besides, ladies, you know that the Southern people have long anticipated this struggle, and have been prepared for it; they can never be conquered." Miss—replied: "Yes, Mr. Buchanan, we know, and so does the country, that for the last four years, at least, the Southern people have been permitted to do as they pleased with the powers that controlled the Government, and have been allowed to have their own way in everything; but notwithstanding all that, it is our opinion that they will be conquered and made to return to the support of the old Constitution."

Compromises were offered, but were rejected by the party greedy for plunder without a hearing.—Register.

This no doubt alludes to the Crittenden proposals which was a move to amend the Constitution, which the following Democratic oracle forbids:

The first step towards a restoration of the Union as it was, is to maintain the Constitution as it is. So long as it was maintained in fact, and not threatened with infraction in spirit and in letter, actual or imminent, the Union was unbroken.

Then, with the experience before us, we are still admonished that we were right when we opposed the war in the beginning and favored an honorable adjustment of the difficulties by compromise, and, by the grace of God, we will battle in this just and righteous cause, for freedom of speech, freedom of press, for the good of our fellow-citizens and the good of our common country, always claiming the right to attack the Administration or any of its attendants, whenever they trespass upon the rights of any one of our American citizens, be the position of that citizen high or the most humble among us.—Register.

Summing up by Wm. G. Brownlow:

If I owed a debt to be discharged to the most revolting and God forsaken wretch that could be culled from the ranks of human society, and I wanted to pay that debt and get rid of it, I would make a tender to his Satanic Majesty of twelve Northern men sympathizing with secession. [Tremendous applause.] No Northern man ought to be tolerated in walking Broadway with any sympathy with secession. [Cheers.] They should either be for or against the mill dam, and I would make them show their hands. [Applause.] Why, gentlemen, after the battle of Manassas, they passed through our town on furlough, officers and privates, going down into Dixie, exulting, and brought with them divers what they called Yankee heads—the entire heads of Union troops, some of them with long beards, and they would take them by the hair and shake them out of the window, and say, "A d—d Yankee head!" This is the spirit of secession—the spirit of the vile untutored savages of hell—and he who apologizes for them is no better than he who is the perpetrator of the crime. [Cheers.]

NEWS ITEMS.

It is said that new and very rich diggings have been struck about fifty miles from Florence city. A great rush from Salmon thence took place recently.

The Times reports an instance of hydrophobia in Portland.

The Times learns of Mr. Strong, the contractor, that the telegraph line is finished from Portland some eight miles above Salem.

The Yreka Journal says the line is in working order from Sacramento to Yreka. Good speed to the telegraph.

The last trip of the Julia brought down the Columbia \$250,000, per Wells Fargo & Co.

FROM THE NORTH.

FRIGHTS.—The cars are now running over a portion of the Cascades Railroad, and arrangements have been made by which some thirty tons of freight passes over daily. With the commencement of next week, it is expected that the Railroad will be in full working order, and then freight will be brought through from below as fast as offered.

News from Powder river is still favorable.

At the moment we go to press, a rumor reaches us that a large number of miners have been massacred by the Klamath Lake Indians. The party, sixty strong, came from Jacksonville. When near Klamath Lake they were attacked by Indians, and all but six of their number perished.

The weather has been unusually chilly and damp for some days past. Considerable rain has fallen, but the sun is again shining out clearly.