The Oregon Statesman.

SALEM:
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NOTICE.—The business department of the *Statesman* Office is under the management of D. W. CRAIG, who is alone authorized to transact the business of the concern.

THE CALL TO THE FAITHFUL.

It is an invariable custom with every State Central Committee of every party, in calling the members of the party together for a State Convention, to prepare and publish, by the authority of the Committee, a "call," stating in general terms the objects of the Convention, the principles of those who are invited to it, and a patriotic appeal "to rally in this critical juncture of public affairs," that proper principles and proper men may be indorsed to guide the public interests about to be passed on at the next election. So universal is this practice with all political parties, that we cannot now call to mind a single instance where the "call" was neglected. In fact, without the "call," the rank and file of the party can have no idea of what is to be done, what is going on in the party organization, what is to be done in Convention, what offices are to be filled, what nominations are to be made, and who are expected to participate in the Convention. So important is the "call" for a State Convention in party politics, that when a State Central Committee fails or neglects to issue its "call," or "appeal to the party," it is always taken as *prima facie* evidence that the party is unable to make the campaign against its opponent in its present form, and that reorganization of the party, or a disbandment of it, and the formation of a new party, is intended and determined upon by the leaders who met in State Central Committee.

We are led to make the above remarks from the fact that "our Southern brethren," who met at Portland on the 22d day of January, under the name of the "State Central Committee of the Democratic party of Oregon," did not make any "call," "appeal to the party," or say a word directly to any party. We take the following from the proceedings of that Committee, as published in their leading organ, the *State Rights Democrat*, and it is all the Committee has dared to say about a State Convention:

On motion of Mr. Avery, Thursday, the 5th of April, 1866, was selected as the day for holding the Democratic State Convention.

Gov. Whiteaker introduced the following:

Resolved, That the apportionment of representation for the Democratic State Convention, to be held in the city of Portland, April 5th, 1866, be as follows: One delegate for each county at large, one for every seventy-five Democratic votes cast at the last Presidential election for McClellan, and one for every fraction of seventy-five, of and over thirty-eight. Adopted.

Mr. Wilson moved that this Committee recommend the Democracy throughout the State to hold County Conventions on the 22d of March, 1866. Carried.

One gentleman moves that the Democratic State Convention meet at Portland on the 5th of April, but does not state the object of the Convention. "Gov. Whiteacre introduced the following," and from the grand parade with which it is stated, we are to infer that it was received by the other members as an oracle from Jupiter; but he failed to hint at the business of the delegates. Another member then moved that the Democracy hold County Conventions on the 22d of March, but he does not state the objects of even these County Conventions. From all that their Central Committee has done, it is impossible to tell what the Convention to be held at Portland is expected to do. Who can tell from all this, or any of it, what nominees the Portland Convention is expected to make, or whether it intends to make a single nomination. To prove the correctness of our remarks, we hope our readers will ask their Democratic neighbors the object of the Portland Convention; and if nominations are to be made, what kind?—county, state, national, judicial, electoral, or what?

The only explanation of this singular and unprecedented action is to be found in the following paragraph, in relation to the Committee, in the Albany *Democrat*:

To say that complete harmony on every issue before the Committee had prevailed, would not be correct, nor could it be wished that it were so, for that phenomenon would imply that the proceedings had been a thing of previous arrangement or artful manipulation.

The truth is that the session of the Committee was a very stormy one. The Johnson men in the Committee, from Marion and Polk counties, determined to "rule or ruin," and they succeeded in ruling. They were afraid to publish a "Johnson call," for fear that the venerable old 'Sixty-Fiver' and O'Meara would kick out of the traces at once, and call a second convention before they could all be bound by the 5th of April Convention, so they deferred pressing that point. Another reason of their action is, they are hoping (vain hope) that somebody will kick up a fuss in the Union party, so that Johnson will not be completely indorsed by the Union Convention, which they anticipate will meet prior to the 5th of April, and then they will compel a blind obedience to the majority of their own Convention, smother the scruples of the O'Meara wing, and swallow President Johnson at a single gulp, hoping that they would in this manner draw largely from the Union party.

It was said by Thomas Jefferson, who was a much shrewder politician than a statesman, that "minorities are always desperate;" and it is plain to every man's observation that the Democratic leaders in Oregon are now occupying a most desperate extremity. They are afraid that if they go too far towards Johnson and the Union, their recruits from Missouri will stay away from the election in disgust; and, on the other hand, they dare not declare the "war a failure," and Johnson a "beorish tailor," as they did one year ago, without driving all the sensible and respectable members of their party over to the Union party. They have not the courage to openly attempt the organization of a new and patriotic party, as did the old Whig leaders in 1852, and they fear to trust their political carcasses any longer in the rotten old hulk labelled "Democracy." They see that the party has been defeated and annihilated in every State in the Union; that the very name of "Democratic party" has become synonymous with "Secession," and "Southern Confederacy," and that they are being borne down under the terrible odium of sympathizing with the traitors who *failed* to destroy the nation. They would like to ride two horses—"Andrew Johnson" and "Peace Democracy"—but they discover that the steeds are running in opposite directions, and that the feat is impossible. But they do hope to kick up a terrible dust, and, if possible, prevent the honest people from seeing what they are really doing, and thus appear "all things to all men," until after the June election.

OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

We have intended for some time past to call the attention of our delegation in Congress to the importance of taking some steps that would insure the ascendency of American interests and American control, in these important Islands, when the natives were ready or compelled to relinquish it.

The Islands have been settled, reformed and redeemed from barbarism to civilization and Christianity, by the labors of Americans. For many years it was a labor of missionary love and duty entirely, and stretched through trials, privations and dangers, of which the present foreign population of the Islands have but a faint idea. New these Islands, thus tenderly and assiduously cared for by self sacrificing and enterprising American citizens, have grown up to a position of vast importance to American interests on the Pacific coast, and their trade is proving profitable. Thus far in the history of the Islands American citizens have been content to attend to their own business—teaching and trade—and left political affairs to the entire direction of the natives. But the time has now arrived when we think that our Government should look after political matters among the islands of the Pacific. The native population of the islands in question is already reduced to about sixty thousand, and by that unvarying law of nature which enables the superior to overshadow and press out the inferior races of man, the decline is going on at a very rapid rate. Not only is the native population itself failing rapidly, but the royal blood which has been priviledged to rule is nearly exhausted. The death of the late King, Kamehameha IV., left but two representatives of the royal family, a brother and a sister of the late King, who, by the law of succession in force there, are entitled to the throne by right of descent. The brother, Kamehameha V, is now reigning, and his health is precarious. The sister, Victoria Kamehama, should she survive her brother, will be entitled to the crown, and she will be the last of the royal family. We understand that, according to the fundamental law of the Islands, when the royal line is exhausted the crown becomes "elective."

It is familiar to our readers that, during the past summer, the British Government sent a steam frigate to Honolulu, with a royal invitation from Queen Victoria of England, inviting Emma, Queen Dowager of the Islands and widow of the late King, together with some British officials at the Islands, to visit England as the guest of Victoria, the frigate being specially set apart for Emma to make the visit. Queen Emma accepted the invitation, and is now in England. A word about her: She is the granddaughter of an English sailor, who deserted his ship in the days of Captain Vancouver, and joining the bands of Kamehameha I, in his wars to put down all the rival chiefs, shared with that chieftain in his success, was taken into the favor of the King, married into the royal family, then but little better than naked savages; and but for the labors and teaching of the American missionaries, this same Queen Emma would have doubtless remained in the primitive simplicity of her grandmother—a naked, untaught barbarian.

In an article on this question, the Washington City *Chronicle* says:

The only object which the British Government can have in view, in thus transporting Queen Emma in royal state to England, and in entertaining her there at the cost of the nation, must be the intention to secure the succession to her, perhaps to the exclusion of the Princess Victoria, in the interests of Great Britain. This may be accomplished by a protectorate. A scheme for a protectorate has been proposed to the present King, but was not accepted.

During the rebellion, England, equally predatory with France on this side of the world, sent out a Bishop and established him in these Islands, for the manifest purpose of undermining the influence of the American missionaries, and to act also as a political agent in behalf of British interests. This is always the practice of the British Bishops.

It is of the utmost importance to Oregon and California that our interests with the Islands be looked after. Our commercial relations have grown up to much importance. The Islands consume largely of Oregon produce and manufactures, and we in turn are profited by her sugar production. Hon. J. H. Mitchell presented this matter to the present Legislature at its regular session, in an able speech in favor of a reciprocity treaty with the Islands, and we regret that his figures are not at hand to show by dollars and cents the extent of our trade with the Hawaiians. Of the future of our interests on the Pacific, the *Chronicle* continues:

The Pacific ocean is about to become the scene of interesting events. Trade in the Atlantic will follow in its accustomed channels, while in the Pacific trade is entering directions entirely new. Intercourse between California and Oregon with Japan and China has been initiated, and a line of steamships from San Francisco to these rich and populous countries will be in operation in a twelve-month, touching at Honolulu both ways. The Hawaiian Islands, and every other group in the North and South Pacific, will be "occupied and possessed" by the white race under different nationalities, and will be to that ocean what the West India Islands have been to the Atlantic, drawing their laboring class from China instead of from Africa. Our own people, to the number of several thousand, already settled in Hawaii, respectable, wealthy, and secure in the affections of the mass of the people, however out of favor with the Government, are looking anxiously for such aid from Washington as will save them from falling into the clutches of some enemy or rival of the United States.

At this day, any questions will be between our Government and that of Hawaii alone. Before long third parties will enter into the case, and we shall have complications with England or France, unless we intend to yield our claims to the islands altogether.

NO DIFFERENCES.—There have been differences of opinion here and there as to this or that measure; but there are none upon questions of principle.—*State Rights Democrat.*

Oh no! no difference in principle; none at all. To be sure the *Democratic Review* indorses President Johnson's message, and very generally endorses his policy, while the *Democrat* denounces the same, and declares that no Democrat can indorse it, yet there is no difference of principle here!—a mere difference of opinion!

The voters of Oregon will be able to see where the differences are. The Democracy will not be able to cover up its treasonable record for the past four years, by pretended assent to and indorsement of the success of the policy of the Union party. The Democrats will make desperate efforts to stifle all reference to their position while the Union armies were battling for the life of the nation; but they will not succeed in drowning the recollection of the past.

COMING TO THEIR SENSES.—For the purpose of facilitating the establishment of National Banks in California, a bill has been introduced into the Legislature of that State, authorizing the issue of twenty-five million dollars in notes, to be stamped in the U. S. Treasury Department, "California," and to be redeemable in gold by the California Banks. This is a kind of compromise between hard money and the regular national notes. It is asked of Congress as a special favor to California, and if granted will prove of great value to the whole Pacific coast.

LAND OFFICE.—A bill has passed the United States Senate providing for a Land Office in Eastern Oregon.

PLAIN TALK TO THE OFFICE-SEEKERS.

Under the above head, the Albany *Journal* has the following:

Policy is ever changing, but "principles never die;" and it follows logically that men who entertain and cherish correct principles will not surrender those principles for the policy of maintaining any political organization, when it is leading them away from the landmarks which point out the path of duty and patriotism. If this reasoning is correct, the importance of shunning the errors and excluding the vices which have crept into other dominant political parties in our country is apparent to every true Union man. In judging of the qualifications of a man for office, fair acquirements, honesty, integrity, and above all, his being entirely devoid of the electioneering arts of a demagogue, should be the recommendations required. It is a rule that will universally apply, that the man who is ready to promise, bargain, buy, fawn, cringe and flatter, is unfit to trust, for he would do the same amount of menial obeisance to any party that would tender him office.

We heartily endorse the above. The Union party has been and is yet eminently the people's party. It was not organized for the benefit of place-hunters, and cannot be so used. The vital force of the Union party consists, not in organization or discipline, but in the hold it has upon the affections of the people. All men can see that it was the Union party which has preserved the Union and the nation from the treason of the rebels; and all men can see that it did this at the very time when the *Democratic party was willing to give up the Union to the traitors*. These being the facts, the Union party is based upon the great and vital principle of the *maintenance of the Union* at all and every hazard, no matter if somebody does get killed to secure that end. This vital principle cannot be compromised away, or risked upon uncertain contingencies, by the schemes of politicians or the bargains of aspirants. The people are the parties interested. They want honest, faithful and true men to represent them. They want men of hard sense and sound judgment, and men of "backbone" on the day of trial; and above all, they want men "entirely devoid of the electioneering arts of the demagogue." It is always a safe and good rule, "that the man who is ready to bargain, promise, buy, fawn, cringe or flatter, is unfit to trust," and we hope the people will enforce it to the very letter.

A DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Sound principles in our platform and sound men as our standard-bearers upon that platform will undoubtedly be set forward, and thus arrayed for the grand contest in June next.—*State Rights Democrat.*

If that is done Oregon will be perfectly safe, as the Union Convention intends to have its old platform of well-tried and perfectly sound principles on hand, with sound men as standard-bearers.

But we can tell you, in advance of your Convention, Mr. *Democrat*, what kind of a platform you *dare not, cannot* adopt:

1st. Your Convention *cannot, dare not* indorse the secession, nullification resolutions of 1798 and 1799.

2d. Your Convention *cannot, dare not* indorse the platform of your *last State Convention*.

3d. Your Convention *cannot, dare not* indorse the platform of your *last* National Convention at Chicago.

4th. Your Convention *cannot, dare not* openly indorse President Johnson, as the New York Democratic Convention did; neither will it dare to openly and plainly denounce him, as the *Democrat* does.

5th. Your Convention *dare not* denounce the Southern States for seceding from the Union.

6th. Your Convention *dare not* declare the war a failure, as you did one year ago.

Your Convention will make a studied and laborious effort to be on both sides of every question, without appearing to be against anything but taxes, revenue stamps, and "negro equality." To deceive the people is your only chance for success, and a mighty effort to that end will be attempted.

WEST VIRGINIA.—The Lafayette *Courier* refers to the formation of West Virginia as a case of the violation of the Constitution by President Lincoln. We are very much afraid that the *Courier* editor does not read the papers. Does he not know that the State of West Virginia was formed in accordance with the very section of the Constitution which he asserts was violated, viz:

SEC. 3.—1. New States may be admitted by Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the consent of the Legislature of the States concerned, as well as of the Congress.

After the Legislature of Virginia had *denied* the binding authority of the above section, and had recognized the Confederate Constitution as their law, the people of Virginia elected a new Legislature, and one that recognized the above section as the supreme law. This Legislature met at the city of Wheeling, and there *consented* to the division of the State of Virginia, and the formation of the State of "West Virginia;" and this action of that Legislature was ratified by an almost unanimous vote of the citizens of Virginia, who recognized the above section as binding upon them. The entire proceeding was regular, and "according to law." The legal, proper and *constitutional* formation of the State of "West Virginia" cannot be denied, except by a man who is so unreasonable as to claim that a Virginian who is a traitor to the Union, is entitled to all the rights and benefits of the Constitution at the same time he has renounced it, and while he is laboring to destroy it by open war; while a Virginian who is faithful to the Union, is entitled to no rights under the Constitution whatever. The *Courier* would doubtless claim that Jeff. Davis had a right to draw pay as a United States Senator while he was making war to establish the Southern Confederacy. He will not get many to agree to such a position, and yet it is not more false or absurd than are all the other charges against Lincoln or Johnson, for violations of the Constitution. The *Courier* must read more of the history of the country.

THE IDAHO AND MONTANA TRADE.—The Sacramento *Union*, contains the following item of great importance to Oregon:

A meeting of a few of our leading teamsters, merchants and business men was held at the office of the Pacific Railroad Company yesterday afternoon, to devise some plan for extending the trade of Sacramento to the mining districts of Owyhee, Boise and Montana. It seems that a short and superior route can be easily located from the terminus of the Pacific Railroad down the Truckee river to the Big Bend, thence passing east of Pyramid Lake, and between the Mud Lakes and the Humboldt river in an almost direct line to the heart of the Owyhee mines, from which there is a good road to the Boise mines, and it is believed that a good route can be found from there to the Montana mines, which are now commanding so much attention. It is believed that the latter mines can thus be reached with less than eight hundred miles of wagon travel, while it is not less than sixteen hundred miles from those mines to reliable navigation on the Missouri river.

The traders and business men of Oregon must bestir themselves, and organize their efforts, if they would compete with the energy of our California neighbors. Oregon must work for its interests, if we are ever to get away from the shade of California.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

New York, Jan. 22.—The *Commercial's* Washington dispatch says: The internal revenue commissioner recommends the abolition of taxes on watches, plate, carriages, and other articles in schedule A, and he approves the substitution of a tax on sales for the present income tax.

New York, Jan. 22.—Massachusetts and other States which have more than their apportionment of the national currency will probably have the amount of the notes which they are authorized to issue reduced. In order to give a fair proportion to the Southern States.

New York, Jan. 22.—The steamer Liberty, from Havana, January 17th, brings dates from the city of Mexico to January 9th.

The general situation of the Imperalists is, by their own accounts, very unfavorable.

A Mexican force which left Manzanille recently found the 4th battalio starving.

The people in the neighborhood of Acapulco emigrated after having destroyed the wells.

Desertion from the imperialist forces is very great.

The Minister Plenipotentiary to France and about 300 soldiers belonging to the foreign legion have arrived at Vera Cruz.

Secretary Seward had not yet arrived at Havana.

The Captain General had fitted up his country seat and was making preparations to receive him in an enthusiastic and hospitable manner.

Galveston, Jan. 8.—An order has been promulgated mustering out the Twenty-Second Regiment. The vote to day for the convention was quite small. The delegates elected are mostly of the conservative element in Galveston.

Sixty prominent citizens of De Soto parish are under military arrest at Shreveport, Louisiana, charged with murdering negroes. There are constant and serious complaints from the interior parishes of the unwillingness of the freedmen to make contracts.

Buffalo, Jan. 22.—A Titusville (Pa.) dispatch states that there were two large fires there last night. Three men were arrested on charge of being incendaries, and are being tried by a Vigilance Committee. If found guilty they will be hanged at once.

New Orleans, Jan. 22.—The adjourned session of the Legislature commenced to day.

A new party has sprung up in Mexico called the Ortega faction, who hold commissions from Ortega and refuse to recognize Juarez. Cortinas is said to belong to this party.

Col. Lawrence Kip, of Sheridan's staff, who has been investigating the Bagdad affair, returned on Sunday morning.

Paymaster Prestyn has arrived at Brazos with funds to pay all the troops on the Rio Grande. A large number of colored troops are being mustered out. An order has been received to muster out nearly all Gen. Clark's command.

About four companies of black troops are doing provost duty in Bagdad at the solicitation of the American citizens. No one can leave the town without a pass from the headquarters of the United States forces.

The *Time's* Brownsville correspondent says Cortinas now occupies Bagdad with about 200 men. It is understood that Weitzel disapproves of the action of our officers in the recent capture of Bagdad and has already arrested some of them. All the heavy ordnance has been ordered from Brazos to Brownsville.

The *Ranchero* says Caravajal issued a proclamation to his soldiers advising them submit to the Imperial authority rather than unite in filibustering expeditions with the Yankees.

Nashville, Jan. 22.—In the Senate to day the free school bill was rejected by a vote of 9 to 8. The bill is virtually dead.

New York, Jan. 22.—An evening paper announces the appearance of a new counterfeit 100 dollars national currency note. It is well executed.

A letter from St. Petersburg announces that the Russian Government has placed a war steamer at the disposal of the Collins Overland Telegraph Co., and has given instruction to the Russian authorities to afford every possible assistance to the company in their operations.

A letter from Richmond says that throughout the whole State of Virginia meetings have been held for the purpose of fixing the price of labor. In many instances the people have been liberal, while in others they have agreed on a price which will be ruinous to the working class, and productive of trouble in the future.

A Washington dispatch says: Notwithstanding his message urging the abolishment of the Freedmen's Bureau, Gov. Worth, of North Carolina, made application to the Superintendent at Fayetville to intervene in the affairs of his daughter living in Harlam county, and direct a settlement with her negroes who have been employed during the past season, neither party being able to come to terms.

Macon, Ga., Jan. 20.—It is rare at present to see blacks idle or shiftless in the streets. Nearly all have gone to work, and cordiality prevails between the races. Reports from planters are quite favorable, and if this condition of things continues a large quantity of cotton will be raised. Benjamin Hill, Joshua Hill, A. H. Stephens, L. J. Gartrell, Jas. Johnson and Col. Dougherty, are all prominently spoken of as candidates for the United States Senate.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Prominent South Carolina Unionists are urging a modification of the test oath so that none shall be excluded from holding office by its provisions who will make oath that any aid or comfort they may have given to the rebellion was not prompted in any degree by hostility to the Government of the United States.

Gen. Sherman is expected here some day this week to confer with Gen. Grant in reference to military affairs.

Washington, Jan. 22.—The Navy Department has a letter from Commodore Goldsborough saying that the rebel privateer Shenandoah may shortly be expected. The Commodore will probably detail a small crew to bring her across the Atlantic ocean.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The marriage of Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas and Brevet Brig. Gen. Williams took place this evening at 9 o'clock at the residence of the bride. The ceremonies were performed by Rev. Father Lynch, of the Catholic Church.

Philadelphia, Jan. 22.—Oswald Thompson, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, died this morning of paralysis.

Chicago, Jan. 22.—A Washington correspondent of the Detroit *Tribune* gives a different version of the story of Judge Field and the infernal machine. He says the Judge received a package carefully done up about the size and like an ordinary ambrotype case. He proceeded to undo it supposing it to be a picture. In undoing it he noticed that it opened very hard. Just then a suspicion flashed across his mind that there might be something wrong about it and he threw the package against the wall. In striking it broke open and disclosed an ingeniously constructed machine. The package contained several conical balls made somewhat like fixed ammunition for the Spencer rifle, but so arranged as to be discharged by the application of fire. The construction of the infernal machine was such that when opened, a match would be ignited on a piece of prepared cardboard and communicating fire to the ammunition scatter death in every direction.

The Chilean Government has three first class war steamers now building in England. Two of them are expected to be ready for sea about the middle of March, but it is doubtful whether they will be allowed by the British authorities to sail. The Chilean Minister has denied having any knowledge of vessels seized a few days since on suspicion.

Liverpool, Jan. 6.—Cotton has a downward tendency, and is quiet; breadstuffs very dull; provisions quiet and steady; consols closed Saturday, at 85¼ for money; five-twenties, 65¼.

Mazzina is dangerously ill in London.

A railway train containing the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and lady, was fired at by an unknown person, near Multigen. The driver of the engine had a narrow escape.

There has been a revolt in two Spanish regiments, but it makes no progress. The insurgents are being pursued to the mountains.

New York, Jan. 18.—Advices from the West Indies says the bill abolishing the old Constitution of Jamaica, leaving all legislative power in the hands of the English Crown passed the Colonial Parliament with closed doors, some time ago, but requires the sanction of the Home Government to become a law.

A letter from the Island of Curocoa says: Ex-Emperor Soulouque, of Hayti, with his family and suite, have arrived where he proposes to fix his residence, having been banished from his place of exile in Jamaica.

New York, Jan. 18.—The *Commercial's* Washington special says: The admission of the Tennessee delegation to Congress is regarded merely as a matter of time.

Col. Henry M. Judah, U. S. A died at Plattsburg, N. Y., Sunday.

The *Continental* sailed yesterday for Washington Territory with one hundred and seventy-five passengers, seventy-five of whom are women for wives for settlers of that territory.

The *Herald's* Washington special says: Gen. Gordon Granger is about to resign.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 18.—Hon. John Sherman was elected United States Senator to day by the Legislature, by a vote of 94 to 41.

Terre Haute, Ind., Jan 18.—Hon. John G. Davis, long Member of Congress from this district, died here this morning from apoplex.

Gen. Curtis and staff are in Washington awaiting muster out.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The owners of the building in which is held the colored school at Wyattsville, Maryland, notified the teachers a few days since that it would have to be closed, as the laws of Maryland prohibited the education of colored children; the teachers submitted the case to Gen. Howard, who directed them to continue the school as heretofore.

Philadelphia, Jan. 14.—At a meeting of the officers of the Fenian Circle of this city to day, under a call of the District Centre Andrew Wynne, it was determined to hold a grand ratification meeting about the middle of the week, when Emery, Kellian, Melloor and other prominent Fenians are expected to address the brotherhood.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The Freedmen's Bureau is in receipt of reports from the South, showing that the negroes are commencing the new year in a satisfactory manner. Gen. Wayne writes from Alabama that a general improvement continues to be manifest. The demand for labor exceeds the supply; the freedmen show a marked preference for living with Northern men, of whom there are about 50,000 in the State. Planters who ill-treated freedmen last year find it impossible to secure labor this year, and some are compelled to abandon their farms in consequence.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The American Bible Society, celebrated its 50th anniversary this morning in the Hall of the House of Representatives. The Rev. Dr. Bermidge, of New York, delivered a discourse on the subject of the moral purity of Bible.

New Orleans, Jan. 13.—The Liverpool and New Orleans Steamship line is building a new vessel to make the trip in eighteen days. The agent of the French and trans-Atlantic Ship Company have obtained ample wharfage facilities for steamers to connect at New Orleans with St. Nazara.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE REGULAR ARMY.

We have been furnished the following order and circular from the War Department, with a request to publish. The information contained in them is to the applicants for commissions in the regular army. We understand that a large number of applications have been made by officers serving in this Department. The terms of the order and circular will serve to show what are the chances for appointment from Oregon. We are assured by a private letter from Washington, that the Secretary of War and General Grant are determined to adhere to the rule requiring *two years* previous service in filling up any increase of army commissions, for which Congress may hereafter provide:

[SPECIAL ORDERS, NO. 599.]
WAR DEPARTMENT, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, Nov. 13th, 1865.

(*Extract*)

19. I—A Board of Officers will assemble in this city on the 15th instant, or as soon thereafter as practicable, to examine and report upon applications and recommendations which have been submitted for appointments in the Regular Regiments of the Army.

II—The following is a statement of the vacancies to be filled:

In the Cavalry arm, 2d Lieutenants	54
In the Artillery arm, 2d Lieutenants	40
In the Infantry arm, 1st Lieutenants	60
In the Infantry arm, 2d Lieutenants	299
Total number of vacancies	453

III—After a careful examination of the testimonials and military history of the applicants, the Board will select the names of a sufficient number to fill the vacancies shown in the foregoing statement, from those applicants who have served in the volunteers at least two years, and will submit a report with a list of names so selected.

IV—In making the selection, the Board will apportion the whole number to be appointed equal to the number of vacancies, except twenty, to the several States and Territories, according to the representation in Congress.

V—The names selected will be arranged according to arms, in the order of merit, and the appointments will be made in that order.

VI—The Adjutant General will lay before the Board the list of applications, and the recommendations and other papers.

VII—The Board will be composed as follows:

Colonel H. K. Craig, U. S. Army.
Colonel and Brevet Brigadier-General H. Brooks, 4th U. S. Artillery.
Lieutenant-Colonel S. Ewerman, U. S. Army.
By order of the Secretary of War.
E. D. TOWNSEND, Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Adj't General's Office, Washington, ——, 186—.

Applicants for Commission in the Regular Army

The Board now in session is only to examine the testimonials of officers who have served two years in the U. S. Volunteer service. Candidates themselves do not appear before this Board.

Applications, accompanied by testimonials of moral, physical and mental qualifications, of meritorious military service, and of general fitness for the position of a Lieutenant in the Regular Army, if sent to the Adjutant General, will be presented to the Board and duly considered. E. D. TOWNSEND, Ass't Adj't General.

NESMITH AND THE OREGONIAN.

"His [Nesmith's] adherents throughout the State are making every effort to defeat the will of the people by his re election. But they will have to try some more cunning plan than the obtainment from him of a declaration in favor of the present Administration."—*Oregonian.*

We venture to say that a greater untruth than the above extract has not been published in Oregon for one year. Senator Nesmith's personal friends are ready to testify at any time that he has often and repeatedly declared that he *was not, and would not be*, a candidate for re-election to the United States Senate. The *Oregonian* has even had the effrontery to charge that the *Statesman* was in favor of Senator Nesmith's re-election, in the very face of the fact that the *Statesman* has declared, over and over again, that it was not in favor of any such thing. We here take this occasion to enter our earnest protest against the course of the *Oregonian*. Just on the eve of an important election, what, in the name of common sense, does it mean, by attempting to create divisions in the Union party by alleging that this or that man is the partisan of other men and after the charge has been repeatedly denied? Senator Nesmith has a right to support President Johnson, as much as the *Oregonian* has to refuse to support him. Senator Nesmith can do the Union party in Oregon some good, and he will be apt to do it, despite the kicks and continuely of the *Oregonian*. We do not desire to bring the Senator's name before the public more than justice demands, but we do desire to have the Union party work as a unit for the success of Union principles. It has come to a pretty pass, indeed, if every man in the Union party who does not please the *Oregonian*, must be hunted down, and, if possible, driven off. Does that paper forget that its editor bolted the Union ticket at the last June election, ran as an independent candidate, and did all he could to defeat the Union party? Now, then, wherefore are these stones continually crashing through the transparencies of the *Oregonian's* glass house, at the wayfarers on the road side?

GEN. SHERIDAN COMING.—Maj. Gen. Phil Sheridan writes to an Oregon friend that he intends to revisit this State before long. He has many very warm friends in this State, and the welcome which will greet him upon his arrival will single high regard for the man with profound appreciation of the value of his public services.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Washington, January 22.—In the Senate, Sumner of Massachusetts, presented a memorial from the Boston Board of Trade, asking for the passage of a law to exempt northern creditors from the operation of Southern States limitation law. Referred to the judiciary committee.

Clark, of New Hampshire, called up the bill relating to the qualification for jurors. It was made the special order for Thursday.

Fessenden, of Maine, from the reconstruction committee, reported against the resolution to amend the Constitution, by declaring that representation and direct taxation shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective numbers—counting the whole number of persons in each State, and excluding Indians not taxed: *Provided*, That whenever the elective franchise shall be denied or abridged in any State, on account of race or color, all persons of such race or color shall be excluded from such basis of representation.

In the House, Stevens, of Pennsylvania, introduced a resolution to instruct the committee on judiciary to inquire whether any further legislation is necessary to compel compliance with the law requiring all officers to take the test oath. Adopted.

Williams, of Pennsylvania, introduced a resolution, which was referred to the committee on reconstruction, declaring that the leaders of the rebellion ought to be tried by a court martial or a military court, and that it would be inexpedient to try them by a civil court, where the jurors in the South would be equals of those accused of crime.

Stevens, of Pennsylvania, from the committee on reconstruction, reported an amendment to the constitution, providing that representation and taxation shall be based on the whole number of persons in the several States, and that where the elective franchise is denied or abridged on account of race or color, all such persons shall be excluded from the basis of representation.

In the Senate, the enlargement of the Freedman's bureau was taken up; the question was upon Cowan's amendment. After debate the amendment was rejected—ayes, 7; nays, 33. Davis of Kentucky, moved to strike out the provision extending military jurisdiction to the agents and employes of the Bureau. Rejected, ayes, 8; noes, 31.

An amendment was adopted restricting the military jurisdiction to the exercise of the functions pertaining to the Bureau. Several other amendments were offered and rejected.

Anthony, of Rhode Island, called up his resolution to refer all the papers and documents on the subject of the lately rebellious States to the special committee on reconstruction; passed. After an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, a resolution was adopted instructing the committee on manufactures to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for graduating the tax on cigars manufactured within the United States, according to quality.

Ashley, of Ohio, introduced an amendment to the Constitution providing that in the event of the death or disability of both the President and Vice President of the United States, the Chief Justice, or oldest Associate Justice shall act as President until there shall be a new election. Also, that when there shall be no election by the people, a choice shall be made in Congress by Senators and Representatives.—Adjourned.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Chandler offered a resolution which was adopted, calling for whatever information the President may have received touching the violation of the neutrality laws, by our army occupying the right bank of the Rio Grande.

On motion of Howe, the bill recommending the establishment of provisional governments for the Southern States, was taken up, and Dolittle addressed the Senate at great length in opposition to the resolution.

Chandler called up his resolution offered yesterday, declaring non intercourse between this country and Great Britain and withdrawing our Minister from the Court of St. James.—Laid on the table. Yeas, 25; nays, 12.

Howard called up his resolution for the trial of Jeff Davis and Clay. Ordered printed.

Howard offered a resolution calling upon the President for a copy of whatever correspondence he may have had with the Judge of the Supreme Court respecting the holding of civil courts in insurrectionary districts, for offenses against the United States. Resolution was adopted.

Chandler gave notice that he would at an early day, read the British foreign enlistment law, and move the repeal of all existing neutrality.

A bill for the admission of Colorado as a State was reported.

Wade followed and argued against admitting the Southern States at present. At the conclusion of Wade's speech, a bill enlarging the Freedmen's Bureau was taken up. An amendment was offered to this bill, limiting titles to land given to negroes by Sherman.

A bill giving to the widow of President Lincoln the franking privilege for life was passed.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Mr. Trumbull spoke in favor of the amendment confirming titles to land under General Sherman's orders to three years instead of forever, which was adopted.

Washington, January 18.—Mr. Morgan, from the committee on commerce, reported without amendment the House bill to extend the time for the withdrawal of goods from bonded warehouses and public stores, also the bill to authorize the construction of a line of telegraph between New York and the West Indies.

Mr. Nesmith, of Oregon, proceeded to address the Senate at length on the reconstruction question.

Mr. Wade made an elaborate speech in reply to Mr. Doolittle. He would keep the States south out of the Union until they gave suffrage to the negro by legislation or by constitutional amendment. By the same principle that compelled them to adopt the constitutional amendment and repudiate the rebel war debt he would also compel them to do justice to the negro.

In the House, the committee on claims reported against paying claims growing out of the war, excepting the private property of loyal persons taken or destroyed as a military necessity.

The question extending the suffrage in the District of Columbia came up, and after considerable discussion the House voted on the bill as originally introduced by Mr. Kelly, and reported back by Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, without amendment, and which provides that in all laws and parts of laws prescribing the qualifications of electors in the District of Columbia, the word "white," shall be and the same is hereby stricken out; that from and after the passage of this act, no person shall be disqualified from voting at any election held in such District on account of color, and that all acts of Congress and the laws of the State of Maryland in force in said District, and in Washington and Georgetown, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed and annulled. The bill passed, yeas, 116; noes, 44. When the result of the vote was announced, applause followed from floor to gallery. The following Representatives, ranked as Union men, voted against the bill; Kay and Kendall, from Illinois, Hill, Stilwell, and Farquhar, of Maryland; Smith, McKee and Randall, of Kentucky; Neal, Van Horn, Benjamin and Anderson, of Missouri; Henderson, of Oregon; and Hubbard and Latham, of West Virginia.

In the brisk parliamentary skirmishing which attended the suffrage bill, the rulings of Speaker Colfax were a clear exhibition of his fitness for the position, evincing all the uncommon power as a parliamentarian which he possesses.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Mr. Raymond spoke over three hours, taking the exact ground of the President against all amendments, attacking the reconstruction committee, styling it a committee to reconstruct the government of the United States, and calling upon the House to emancipate itself from such domination.

At the close of Mr. Julian's speech, who followed Mr. Raymond, Mr. Griswold, of New York, moved to recommit the whole subject to the joint committee on reconstruction without instructions, with permission to report at any time. The vote upon this will be taken tomorrow, and there seems to be no doubt it will succeed.

The President sent a message to congress to day, saying it was not adviseable to make public the orders and correspondence relating to General Sheridan's position on the Mexican frontier.

THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION.

New York, Jan. 30.—The Washington correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune*, says: It has been difficult to convince the radical members of Congress that the reported conversation telegraphed yesterday had President Johnson's sanction, but such is the fact,—he having revised a copy and directed it to be sent to the press. In this view the whole statement is herewith telegaped. The President said, he doubted the propriety at this time of making further amendments to the Constitution. One great amendment had already been made by which slavery had been forever abolished within the limits of the United States, and a national guarantee thus given that the curse should never again exist in the land. Propositions to amend were becoming as numerous as resolutions at a town meeting, called to consider the most ordinary questions. All this, in his opinion, had a tendency to diminish the dignity and prestige attached to the constitution of the country, and to lessen the respect and confidence of the people in their charter of freedom. If, however, amendments are to made to the Constitution changing the basis of representation and taxation, though he did not deem them at all necessary, at the present time, he knew of none better than a simple proposition embraced in a few lines, making in each State, the number of qualified voters the basis of representation and direct taxation upon correct principles.

Qualified voters were for the most part men who were subject to draft and enlistment when necessary to repel invasion, suppress rebellion, and quell domestic violence and insurrection. They risk their lives, shed blood, and spend all to uphold the government, and give protection security and value to property. It seemed but just that property should compensate for the benefits thus conferred by depriving these persons incident to its protection and enjoyment. Such an amendment the President also suggested would remove from Congress all issues in relation to the political equality of the races. The President in this connection expressed the opinion that the agitation of negro suffrage in the District of Columbia, at this time, was a mere entering wedge to the agitation of the question throughout the States, and was ill-timed, uncalled for, and calculated to do great harm. He believed it would engender enmity and strife, between the races, and lead to a war between the races, and lead to a war between them which would result in great injury to both, and the certain extermation of the negro population. Precedence, he thought, should be given to more important and urgent matters, legislation on on which was essential to the restoration of the Union, the peace of the country and the prosperity of the people.

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