

REPORT FROM ALPHA

Indications That the Purser's Bag Was Robbed.

STORY OF HEROISM SPOILED

Another Expedition Will Attempt to Recover Treasure in the Spring—Health Conditions Improving at Dawson—More Gold.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 24.—Captain Walbran, N. G., steamer Quadra, who went up to the wreck of the Albatross, today made his report to the marine department, including sworn statements of the mate and lighthouse keeper, which will be used at the investigation if one should be decided to be necessary. Among the wreckage found was the bag in which Purser Barber had kept valuables, cut open and apparently robbed.

Captain Walbran ridicules the idea that the crew of the Albatross made a trip to shore and held on to the rock with one hand while with the other he supported the end of the line along which the ship wrecked men were being hauled. He says that the rock was quite bare when the vessel struck, and the line was passed ashore with comparative ease. A minute or two later, however, the ship swung around and its stern was hoisted up by the cable between her and land. The line was submerged, and those who perished hesitated about committing themselves to it when covered with water and thought to insure at the expense of their lives. The officer describes the shrieks of those who perished when the rigging fell about midnight as terrible.

Another expedition will go to Coos Bay in the spring. It will attempt to recover the lost treasure by means of hydraulic machinery, having for guidance the maps and papers left by the Nova Scotian trader who accompanied the schooner Aurora's expedition last year.

Late Reports From Dawson.

The steamer Danube brings news that on December 17 there had been five deaths in a week at Dawson from pneumonia, and the people were greatly worked up. The epidemic was of a typical nature, subsiding. Smallpox has almost disappeared, and there were but two cases in the district. Five thousand vaccine points reached Dawson December 23, and compulsory vaccination was immediately started.

David Moraine, a miner on Lost Chances Creek, left December 16 and was killed.

News from Dawson, December 23, is that on all commodities, lower than summer prices.

Robbers entered a store owned by Clark & Ryan, at Dawson, December 13, held up the cashier and took \$100 from the till. The customers in the store were also held up, but not robbed. The robbers escaped.

It is reported that discoveries of rich quartz mines have been made on Bonanza and elsewhere in the Klondike district. Many samples assay over \$50 to the ton. None so low as \$25, and one \$85.

Four automobiles have been ordered by Dawson and will be used on runs to the creek.

Kowdowit, chief of the Chilkats, who gave a recent big polioch at Kuckwan, died December 15.

THE BICYCLE TAX CASE.

Points Urged Against It in the Supreme Court.

SALZEM, Or., Dec. 24.—The case of J. A. Ellis, respondent, vs. William Frazier, Sheriff, appellant, from Multnomah County, was heard in the Supreme Court today. This is the suit brought to test the validity of the bicycle tax law. In the Supreme Court the following reasons were urged against the constitutionality of the law:

First: The act violates article 4, section 25, particularly subdivisions 7 and 10 of the constitution, being a special and local law for laying, opening and working on highways, and for the amendment and repeal of the same for any purpose.

Second: The act violates section 1, article 5, of the constitution, because it does not provide a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation or precise regulations as to the mode of valuation for taxation of the property of the same class owned by all the citizens of the state.

Third: The act violates article 1, section 23 of the constitution, in that it imposes a taxation which is not equal and uniform.

Fourth: The act is question violates article 1, section 20, of the constitution, in attempting to grant to citizens and classes of citizens privileges and immunities which, upon the same terms, do not belong equally to all citizens of the state.

Fifth: The act violates article 4, section 25 of the constitution, because it originated in the Legislature, being Senate Bill No. 18, and did not originate in the House. The said act pretends to raise revenue, and is a revenue law.

The Supreme Court today handed down one opinion, deciding the case of McKinley Mitchell vs. J. W. La Follet, respondent. This was an appeal from a judgment in favor of La Follet by Judge Burnett, in the Circuit Court for Marion County. The section of the lower court is affirmed, in an opinion written by Chief Justice Brand.

It appears that the defendant had agreed to deliver a quantity of potatoes to the plaintiff, the goods to be delivered on the terms of the contract. Before the time for delivery the plaintiff requested the defendant to deliver the potatoes at Brooks Station, instead of at the river. This the defendant refused to do unless the potatoes should be paid for before they were taken out of the field. The plaintiff then claimed that the defendant had violated his contract, and brought this action for damages therefor. A number of questions regarding instructions to the jury and the refusal of evidence were raised, but the Supreme Court finds no error in the court below.

A large glass case was placed in the museum in the executive department today to receive the flag of the Oregon National Guard, and especially those carried by the Second Oregon boys in the Philippines. The case is about 10 feet high by seven wide, and has glass doors that slide upward. The case has been placed upon the wall on the north side of the museum, where the flags will show to the best advantage. The object of this case is to preserve the flag from the wear of the elements and the tear of curiosity-seekers. Already a few small pieces have been torn from one of the flags that saw service in the Philippines.

Clatsop County today paid her scalp bounty tax to the amount of \$27.75.

The commencement of a divorce suit, the trial of a divorce suit and the issuance of six marriage licenses was the greater part of the business transacted at the Courthouse today.

LONG PASTORATE ENDED.

Resignation of the Rev. Dr. Thompson, at Corvallis.

CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 24.—At the morning service yesterday the resignation of Dr. Thompson was tendered to the congregation of the Presbyterian Church, in this city. The resignation was taken after he had accepted the pulp of the church for

A NEW COUNTY WANTED

SPIRIT THAT ANIMATES PART OF EASTERN OREGON.

Parts of Union, Baker and Malheur May Fuse if They Can Agree on County Seat.

BAKER CITY, Dec. 24.—Division of counties is a sentiment that seems to be spreading in Eastern Oregon. Whether due to the vastness of territory embodied in counties east of the Cascades, or lack of the cohesion that grows from long-established boundaries, the spirit of unrest is apparent. An organized effort is being made to form an independent county of parts of Union, Baker and Malheur. Meetings have been held in Union County and one in Huntington looking to this end. Friday evening a committee from Huntington met representatives from the Panhandle of Union County at Elsie Valley. The week previous Editor Strayer, of the Eagle Valley News, and Captain Craig, an old-time resident of Eagle Valley, visited Huntington as representatives of the

service of the festival occasion. There were no turkey dinners, but venison and bear meat were plentiful. The provisional government, or its legislative department, was in session, and adjourned for Christmas day. The Legislature then held its session in the Methodist Church, which is now used as an undertaking establishment. During this session of that legislative body, Samuel K. Barlow was granted a five-year charter to build a toll road over the Barlow Pass. The road was built in the early Spring and Summer of 1862, and the Barlow party was enabled to bring its wagons and household supplies over the new road. William Barlow thinks that he drove the first wagon that passed over the summit, although he is not absolutely certain, as several other teams came over at the same time. The toll rate was \$2 per wagon. As soon as enough money was collected to make good the expense involved in building the road, Mr. Barlow forfeited his franchise, but later a charter was granted by the territorial government to other persons for a toll road.

Patents on cash entries have been received at the local land office for the following: Charles H. Wheeler, Ostrom, P. Merritt, William S. Jones, DeWitt Clinton, Rebecca Troxell.

Homestead patents have been received for the following: Daniel Springer, Isaac M. Donkel, Simon P. Donkel, Edith Clapham, William B. Robertson, Nelson L. Knighton, Edward Patsch, Frank J. Morrison, Andrew Kostur, Frank Petilka, John L. Hunt, Barnard A. Johnson.

The holiday trade Saturday and today surpassed the expectations of the local merchants, and it is believed that the volume of business in Christmas articles far exceeds that of any previous season.

Boise River Leaks.

W. C. Annet, promoter of the New York canal, claims to have discovered the cause of the leakage in the Snake River at certain seasons of the year. His theory is that there is a loss of water through underground channels at a point somewhere above the headwaters of the New York River. This loss in the dry season creates a scarcity of water as a consequence. That such a leakage is going on he infers from the fact that the snowbeds at present are sufficiently high to secure a satisfactory and even superabundance of water, and it followed that as all this water does not come down to the gates it must escape by some hidden outlet near the dam.

Two Christmas Inquests.

SEATTLE, Dec. 24.—Inquests on two cases will be held tomorrow at Black Rock. One is that of Angelo Devere, an Italian miner who was caught in a cave-in of a coal mine. The other is that of Gomer Davis, who was found dead near a railroad track, evidently killed by a train.

Idaho Notes.

The Brodbeck brewery, at Boise, was sold last week to Buffalo, N. Y.

The big new vault for the Capital State Bank has arrived at Boise. It made a full load, weighing 15,000 pounds.

The South African quartz claim, a mile above Idaho City, on Elk Creek, owned by Barney Moore, containing a good amount of the Cripple Creek & Idaho Exploration Company, which will begin work in about a month sinking a shaft.

A. B. Williams, general manager of the construction of the Dewey Hotel, at Nampa, has left for New York. He states he will return in March, and that he will bring with him a complete outfit for establishment of a box factory.

J. S. Hickey, a capitalist of Anacosta, Dec. River, has been appointed trustee of a strip of land at the disposal of the B. N. & O. Railroad yards, to be used as a city park. This land contains four blocks, containing 15 acres, and is admirably for the purpose.

A company has been organized in Gentle Valley to construct an irrigating ditch which will bring 500 or 700 acres under cultivation in that section. It will be known as the Thatcher Canal & Power Company, and is capitalized at \$10,000. It is the intention to take a canal out of the Snake River on the west side, about 20 miles above Cove, and it will run thence along the foothills a distance of 23 miles and empty into the north fork of Hoop Creek. The canal will be about 15 feet wide, and will carry from two to two and a half feet of water.

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THE DALLES' NEW POSTMASTER

THE DALLES, Or., Dec. 24.—J. M. Patterson, who was appointed Postmaster at The Dalles, December 18, is a native of Germany County, Ohio, having been born in that county November 23, 1842. At the outbreak of the Union Army from his home town, New Concord, O., serving through the Rebellion until May, 1862, and afterward removing to Des Moines, Ia., from which city he started West in 1868. Mr. Patterson's first Oregon residence was in Salem, where he acted as assistant Postmaster from 1869 to 1871, also holding other positions of trust until 1885, when he removed with his family to The Dalles. For several years he was bookkeeper for the general merchandise firm of A. M. Williams & Co., afterward being elected cashier of the First National Bank, of the city. Mr. Patterson has always been a loyal Republican, and, as such, has participated in every campaign during his residence in Oregon, figuring prominently in Waco County's politics for the last 15 years.

Panhandle to sound the southern section of Baker County. At the same time the extreme northern end of Malheur was considered as a possible addition to the disaffected territory asking for independence.

The meetings being held at these different places have in view the formulation of plans for a union of forces. The Panhandle of Union County began the agitation. It declared for independence or annexation to some other county two of three weeks ago, and the same day the Elsie Valley Committees were then appointed to take up various parts of the work. The southern end of Baker was regarded as more directly tributary to a center formed by the independent Panhandle and a portion of Burnt River Valley than to Baker City. It occurred to the Union County men that perhaps that portion of Baker County could be interested in an independent movement, and the committee was sent over to Huntington. What reception they received at Huntington is not widely published. The businessmen of that town were not inclined to do anything unless there were some apparent benefit. Changing their county seat from Baker City to Elsie or Pine Valley was a question fraught with uncertainties. Elsie Valley is slightly elevated in relation to Baker City, but there is no railroad connection between Elsie and Huntington. The wagon road leads down the Snake River canyon to the mouth of Powder. In the present state of affairs, however, the expenditure of a moderate sum of money would put it in fair shape. The difference of a few miles in Elsie's favor might not be compensated for by the expense from the railroad. Huntington, therefore, was only lukewarm in the project, and is not likely to give any support unless it shall get the county seat. If this be promised, it is likely that the movement for an independent county will receive the cordial support of all that section of Baker lying to the extreme south.

How Elsie and Pine Valleys, Cornucopia and Sparta will view this disposition of the county seat question has not been made known. It has been announced that the desire for independence in the Panhandle on the distance to the county seat. Elsie Valley would improve its condition by a few miles by changing to Huntington, while Pine would suffer a slight loss, and Cornucopia that of Anglo Devere, an Italian miner who was caught in a cave-in of a coal mine. The other is that of Gomer Davis, who was found dead near a railroad track, evidently killed by a train.

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