

Ed. REGISTER.—I see in the last issue of the REGISTER a communication from brother Newsom, of Marion county, to which I shall reply briefly. I am very sorry to know that brother Newsom is offended because I took notice of his chapter of items. I had no intention whatever to be sarcastic or ironical, or bitterly severe. I think if friend Newsom will read my letter again, he will come to a very different conclusion. I was very well pleased with Mr. Newsom's chapter of items, until I came to draining, where he advises the farmers of Linn to sell one-half of their land and use one-half of the proceeds to draining thoroughly, and the other half towards substantial improvements. Now here I thought that friend Newsom was not aware of the cost of under-draining in Oregon. Now, I simply asked Mr. Newsom if he ever had done much draining in Oregon, or if he had ever counted the cost of draining one acre of land. Now, I think friend Newsom ought not to have got offended at such a question as this. Mr. N. says that I wanted him to tell me how ditching ought to be done, and if he knew ever so well, he should not impart that information under caricature. Well, I am naturally a caricaturist, and I would be willing to impart any information desired on ditching or under-draining to any one who wanted information. But, friend Newsom, I have never asked of you any information, neither how ditching nor under-draining ought to be done. I have been taught that thoroughly, from a child up. I have seen all sorts of ditching and all sorts of under-draining done to perfection.

Now, friend Newsom, I want you to come back again to Linn county, and see us, and stroll about just as much as you please; and come and see me, also. I will make you very welcome, and what you don't know about ditching and under-draining I will tell you. You have always spoken in glowing terms of Linn county, of our beautiful land, of our central location, of our enterprising people, of our morals and religion, of our educational and manufacturing enterprises, and when you have said so, you have only told the truth, for we are a mighty people, and old Linn is a great country.

JAMES FINLAYSON.

Evils of the Present Mode of Assessment.

The Governor of Minnesota, in his message to the Legislature of that State, made mention of an evil in the system of assessing property there, which corresponds exactly with an evil which exists in Oregon. He showed that, to begin with, the prevailing standards of valuation are absurdly and universally false, and criminally violative of the requirements of the law. In every town and county the appraisement of property by the Assessors for purpose of taxation is but a fraction, as regards the aggregate return, of the real value, probably not averaging one-third of the real value. More than that the standard of valuation is different in different counties, each one doing its best, because every other does its best, to lower its aggregate valuation in order to escape a portion of the State tax. The result is a constant tendency to a reduced valuation and general inequalities as between counties upon which there is no check at all adequate to the correction of the evil.

The essential vice of the system of assessing property in Oregon could not be more clearly stated than in the above presentation. We have done our best to urge upon the Legislature during its last two sessions the necessity of providing a remedy. But in the heat of party legislation the matter has been neglected. We shall still urge it, and we trust that a Legislature may be chosen this year which will give the subject due attention. There is no subject which more urgently requires it.—Oregonian.

An exchange says that ten million dozen comets were imported into the United States last year. This is only three cents apiece for every man, woman and child in the country, or counting out men and children, about ten for every American woman.

The barber, Hoppy, who committed the rape on the little girl in Portland last week, is coming the insane dodge.

Rev. H. K. Hines intends to write the life of Rev. Jason Lee, the pioneer missionary, and appeals to everybody having material for such a work to forward it to him at Walla Walla, W. T.

Mr. W. Pope and wife, of Oregon City, celebrated their wooden wedding last week.

The Multnomah Medical Society numbers twelve members.

Klamath Lake country has had a very mild winter, and stock has fared well.

Coos Bay denizens are agitating the project of building a railroad from San Francisco via the Bay to the Columbia river.

Henry Kippel, of Jackson county, is reported as one of the numerous Democratic aspirants for Congress. Douglas county has a Democrat who aspires to Congressional honors.

Religious services were still being held in the Methodist and Evangelical churches in Salem last week.

James Hurl, of Jacksonville, has sent to the patent office a model of a railroad brake. The invention is to be attached to the old brakes, and is applied by drawing a cord which runs through the entire train.

During a dispute at Florea, Utah, on the 13th, George Williams drew a pistol and shot J. Cunningham in the head. Cunningham returned the fire, hitting Williams in the breast, killing him instantly.

The Japanese Embassy prefer remaining at Salt Lake until the blockade opens, rather than return and go by steamer.

Clark county, W. T., owes \$26,000, which is more than the debt of the Territory.

Gen. Halleck's will appoints his wife executrix and guardian of their son. He desires his mother shall have free use of his old homestead in Oneida county, N. Y., during her life, and be paid \$5,000 from his estate. All else goes to the widow and son.

Egbert Millikin, toll-gate keeper near San Francisco, took strychnine as an antidote for whisky, but the prompt application of remedies saved his life.

Most of the woolen mills of California are running on full time, and their fabrics find a ready sale.

"A four-cornered square box standing on a three-legged tripod which always points to the north," was the definition of a mariner's compass, given by a student in mathematics at Willamette University, not long since.

A revenue vessel will be constructed for Puget Sound at an early day.

Snow about Idaho City is from four to five feet deep.

Delegate Claggett, of Montana, is carrying out the spirit of the civil service reform, in submitting the recommendations of candidates for the vacant cadetship at West Point to a committee of gentlemen of his Territory.

An Olympia paper says that Seattle is making rapid strides in the direction of progression.

An alien law has been passed by the Montana Legislature, which provides that "no alien shall be allowed to acquire any title, interest or possessory, or other right to any placer mine or claim, or to the profits of the proceeds thereof, in this Territory." It permits aliens to hold and work claims after declaring their intentions to become citizens of the United States. The law does not effect any alien interest acquired before its passage.

The blockade was broken on the 16th, and trains were moving for their destinations.

The Union Pacific Railroad has expended \$20,000 per day in trying to open the road.

"Cotton-seed whisky" is the very latest name for it.

The time for planting shade trees "have arroyen."

The city council of Portland has voted \$500 for the Portland Library.

W. C. Meyer has returned from the East to Jackson county with a lot of fine stock.

Mr. M. S. Hart, contractor, has absquatulated from Portland, carrying away some \$6,000, which ought to have been paid to his creditors.

A nice young man in Eugene City is to receive a watch from a lady at the expiration of one year's total abstinence from the use of tobacco. A watch valued from \$200 to \$500 will engage the entire force of the *Guard* office to take a similar pledge.

The news of the opening of the Union Pacific railroad caused much rejoicing in San Francisco.

Orders have been received to put the Northern Pacific railroad through from Kalama to Olympia by the first of November next.

Maurice Graves was arrested in Eugene and taken to Salem for forgery.

Abraham Rajud was arrested in Eugene on a charge of forgery, says the *Guard*, and bound over in the sum of \$500, in default of which he went to jail.

Eggs are thirty cents per dozen at Eugene City.

A four horse load of potatoes went off last week at Corvallis, like "hot cakes," at \$1 75 per bushel, says the *Gazette*.

Two births in Kalama last week. The Common Council talk of organizing another ward.

The following new Post-offices have been recently established: Klaskamine, Columbia county; Fair Grounds, Marion county; Norton, Clackamas county; Summit House, Clatsop county; Isthmus, Coos county; Hot Springs, Jackson county; Langell Valley, Jackson county; Linkville, Jackson county; Yanax, Jackson county; Cornelius, Washington county; Woodburn, Marion county.

Salem shipped seventy tons of flour to Portland last week.

The roll of the Oregon Pioneers at Astoria now contains one hundred names.

The Democrats are reported as branding eight men at Wheatland to reduce the Republican majority at the next election.

In the skating rink at Springfield, Willie Pengra and Johnnie Kelly, in a scuffle resulting from a quarrel, both tumbled out of the second story window to the ground, breaking an arm or so.

The Eugene *Journal* anticipates the establishment of a bank in that city bearing the "Scriptural name," Faro.

Quite a number of Democrats in Lane county are seeking the nomination for clerk. All the rest want to be Sheriff.

The finances of Eugene are looking up, as the fines for drunks, etc., are coming in lively.

They think of starting a graveyard at Kalama, so soon as somebody dies.

The assessment of Washington Territory will not fall below \$14,000,000, and four mills on that amount will give \$59,000 as the tax for this year.

Pembina, instead of Ojibway, is to be the name of the new Territory.

\$100 per ton has been offered for hay at Vancouver, and can't get it at that, says the *Register*.

The public school has been closed at Nainaim, B. C., and three hundred children have been left to street education.

It is in contemplation to establish a line of vessels between San Francisco and Seattle to accommodate the merchants in the matter of sure freight, at lower rates than has been heretofore the case.

The Sacramento *Union* compares the growth of California with that of Kansas, and shows that the latter has largely distanced the former, owing to its greater accessibility from Atlantic States.

Oregon City is to have a fire Department election next Monday.

It is reported that one hundred and forty-two arrests were made in Portland during last January,

within eight of the number made in San Francisco during the same period.

John Bryon of San Francisco has sued the Omnibus Railway Company for \$50,000 damages for killing his son.

Peter Quick and wife sues S. J. Chadburn for \$25,000 for injuries received by Mrs. Quick by being run over by defendant's wagon. All of San Francisco.

The mills at Corvallis have lost some logs and lumber by the present freshet.

J. M. Murphy, late local reporter of the *Portland Herald*, was tried last Monday in the Circuit Court on the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, and was acquitted, the jury being out but a few minutes, says *Oregonian*.

William Pickett, at one time editor of the *Commercial* in Portland, has been elected Recorder of Kalama.

Montana contains 23,000,000 acres of agricultural lands, 12,000,000 of timber lands and 79,000,000 acres of grazing lands.

But few cattle have died in Montana.

At least ten thousand cattle and horses have died in Wyoming in the vicinity of Laramie.

The total rain fall for the season at San Francisco has been nearly twenty-nine inches.

Carrie Stanley of San Francisco, a beautiful and well educated woman, who left her husband and went on the town three years since, dropped dead upon a street of that city recently from the effects of poisoned whisky.

One of the snow bounders named Danougs, who is said to have left New York a powerful man in full health, was so worn down and exhausted when the train arrived at San Francisco on the 19th, that it was found necessary to carry him to the Lick House in men's arms. He appears to be in the last stages of consumption.

The Roseburg *Plaindealer* says that on the morning of the 12th, the house of J. C. Scraggs on Sugar Pine mountain, was destroyed by fire. Loss \$400, including \$145 in greenbacks.

Also, Mr. J. D. Bowen, of Roseburg, on the 10th, was knocked down and partially stunned by a club in the hands of a man who intended to rob him. His cries for help brought assistance before the robbery was accomplished, and the thief fled.

There were ten cases of small pox at Eureka, Nevada, on the 8th.

Eight inches more rain has fallen this season in San Francisco than in Sacramento.

The Santa Cruz mountains are full of land slides, many of them of vast dimensions.

There are 120 pupils in the California State Normal School.

San Francisco exported 95,354 bbls of flour to China last year, the largest quantity sent to any port.

At Virginia City on the 5th inst., a man named Williams committed an outrage upon a little girl five years of age. Her injuries were such as to imperil her life. The inhuman wretch was arrested.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* has come out victorious in fourteen libel suits.

San Jose, Cal., had a beet on the 5th inst., weighing 170 pounds.

Only forty-seven marriages occurred in San Luis Obispo, Cal., last year.

The Nevada Ice Company has stored ten thousand tons of that cooling commodity.

Ore from the Silver ledges of the Vipond district, Montana, are said to assay \$200 per ton.

Joaquin Miller lectured in San Francisco on the 7th. His subject was "Literary London." The *Chronicle* pronounces it the best lecture of the season.

Almond trees are being extensively planted in Oakland, Cal.

Marriage have been caught in Salt Lake.

Recently a Miss Alfred Dalton

of Benicia, Cal., committed suicide by taking strychnine. Previous to committing the rash act, she cleaned up her house and put it in perfect order, then dressed herself in clean, nice apparel, and laid down on the bed in proper shape for burial. She then took the poison and died. Her funeral took place on Friday. She leaves a husband and six children. The cause of her self-destruction is not known.

The Los Angeles *Star* hoists the name of General Winfield S. Hancock for the Presidency.

A Carson family were recently afflicted with hog-pox—a variety of small-pox imported from Germany.

Salt Lake City is to have a new daily paper.

HOW THE BOYS SNOWBALLED

ALEXIS.—The *St. Louis Democrat* says: The mind of the average American gamins is largely democratic. It is no respecter of persons. All day long a crowd of street boys had been having high old sport at Twelfth and Pine streets in shying snowballs at passers-by. They prolonged the fun much to the indignation of the possessors of the glittering targets of silk hats, and the vexation of the souls of patient policemen, all through the afternoon. When Alexis came he was instantly recognized. With a shout of yells, "There's the Juke!" "Give it to the son of a Czar," the mitrailuse of snowballs was discharged, and royalty ducked beneath the descending missiles. Ducking, however, availed not, and Olssonieff alone in the party successfully ran the battery. Alexis feigned a smile when the cold snow sifted down his neck, and piously responded to Tudeer's hurried quotation from the Greco-Russian prayer-book.

THOSE STOCKINGS.—The time was when all the stockings worn were knit by hand, by ladies of both high and low degree. Our mothers and grandmothers never thought of calling on a neighbor for an afternoon chat without taking their knitting work along; and every otherwise unoccupied hour the fingers would ply the glittering steel. We can remember how we had to wait for the gratification of every childish want till mother got around with the "seam needle;" how with specs over her nose, she would sit by the fireside of an evening and read aloud, stopping now and then to see to "widen" or "narrow," or count the stitches, with the whole family gathered about her. And mother kept all those many feet warm, and knit the most magnificent striped blue and white mittens, and initials on a fringe around the wrist, that we have ever seen, or ever expect to see.

The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company have commenced work of planting trees along the tracks on their road—11,000 chestnut and 10,000 European larches have been planted along its line between White Pigeon and Toledo, through the country where the forests have been mostly cleared away and the supply of timber is scantiest. The work was most excellently done, with the intention that every tree might live, and the cost, including the time of laborers, who belong to the regular force of the road, and did this work in connection with and in addition to their ordinary duties, at an average of eight cents per tree; excluding the cost of the company's employes, the cost was four cents per tree.

PACKING SALMON.—When the salmon are brought to the fishery they are piled up on long tables, projecting over the water. Here stands Chinamen, two at each table, armed with long, sharp knives, who, with great celerity and skill, disembowel and behead the fresh arrivals, pushing the offal over the brink into the river at the same time. After cleaning, the fish are thrown into brine vats, where they remain from one to two days to undergo the necessary shrinkage, which is nearly one-half. They are then taken out, washed thoroughly, and packed down in barrels, with the proper quality of salt. That they may keep perfectly well, it is necessary to heap them up in barrels, and force them down with a screwpress.

A New York dispatch says Mr. Comer, Colonel Fisk's private Secretary, is administrator of Fisk's estate. On Friday he went to the Grand Central Hotel, and demanded the personal property taken from the Colonel's person after the shooting. The property includes Fisk's immense diamond pin, his diamond sleeve buttons, his diamond ring, and \$1,500 in bank notes. Instead of giving up the property, the proprietor of the hotel presented a bill of \$2,500 for allowing Colonel Fisk to die in his house.

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