

Albany Register.

U. S. Official Paper for Oregon.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1872.

The Speech of Attorney General Williams.

The largest audience of the campaign assembled in the Court House last Friday afternoon at one o'clock, to hear the distinguished gentleman whose name heads this article discuss the political issues of the day. A large number of ladies graced the occasion with their presence. For over two hours the Attorney General held the vast audience riveted with his masterly logic and eloquence. Occasional bursts of involuntary applause indicated the deep sympathy and strong approval which was felt by the great majority present in the positions and principles set forth and advocated by the speaker. His effort was largely devoted to State questions. While in his treatment of these he was unsparing in his criticisms, he was yet fair and courteous. His object was not to vilify, but to arrive at the truth. He first spoke of the Litigant Act. Explained that it was copied from the California Act of the same nature, now repealed. He argued that this law was an unnecessary interference in the affairs of the people, and that it was a monopoly. The people under this act were compelled to patronize certain Democratic organs selected by the Governor. They were compelled to pay into the hands of these organs, many of which would otherwise die for want of support, double the price, at least, for their legal printing that competition would charge. If a Democratic Legislature could compel the citizens of Oregon to patronize a Democratic newspaper, they could on the same principle compel them to give their entire trade to Democratic steam mills, and every thing else Democratic. He spoke, in a manner justly indignant, of the high-handed outrage perpetrated by the last Democratic Legislature, in refusing to admit Republicans who had been legally elected to that body, but substituting Democrats in their places, and in placing in the hands of Grover the appointing of the police force of Portland, thus turning Republicans out and putting Democrats in. On the subject of internal improvements, he gave a clear and exhaustive explanation of the Lock and Canal measure, the swindling character of the contract, and its monopoly nature. He showed the reckless and dishonest spirit which prompted the estrangement of the school money, the partisan dishonesty and reckless extravagance which influenced the Legislature to give the Canal and Lock improvement to the present contractors for \$200,000, when the P. T. Company would have done the same work for \$125,000. He said this improvement, in interest on bonds, etc., would cost the State \$250,000; and that the ten percent to be given back to the State, would never be received, as it would be exhausted in salaries, etc. If the object of the Legislature had been to promote the interests of the State, why did they grant a charter to this company for twenty years? Why did they grant them the privilege of charging fifty cents per ton for freight when the average charges of other companies had never exceeded twelve? If the State can come into possession of the Locks at the expiration of twenty years, why not as well on their completion? If it is imprudent at one time, so will it be at another; and then if the State takes back the improvement at the end of twenty years, it will have to pay the \$200,000 over again. The whole scheme was intended to favor a few individuals. It has been shown recently, too, that the company is not building the Locks in a substantial manner. While Democrats have endeavored to convey the impression on the stump that the locks were being constructed of

"stone, iron and cement," the Company has been building them largely of wood, so that when completed, the locks will not be durable. The Attorney General pronounced the Swamp Land Law as the greatest outrage ever perpetrated upon Oregon. He explained the manner in which the swamp and overflowed lands in Oregon were disposed of by an Act of the Legislature for the interest of the Grover-Miller Ring. He pointed out the bad effects on the interests of the State in retarding settlements; in causing trouble and litigation to many who have already paid for their lands; and in throwing a cloud upon the titles of all donation, homestead and pre-emption claims along the margins of lakes and rivers, where submergence occurs in times of high water. Application was all that was necessary. The boundaries could be indicated, the twenty cents per acre paid, and vast tracks were thus taken. Pre-emptor's homes and improvements have thus been taken, and lands which were paid for over ten years ago, for which patents from the United States were received, have been offered for sale as swamp lands. The law creates a most gigantic landed monopoly. Thousands of acres are owned by single individuals. Of the six millions of acres disposed of, between one and two hundred persons own the whole. Applications for the most of these lands were made out by members of the ring before the passage of the law, so thoroughly was this swindle intended to advance the interest of the favored speculator. Farms in Southern Oregon have been claimed by these applications; the poor squatter has been supplanted in his claim; a principle has been inaugurated, which, if not repealed, will involve this State in endless and vexatious litigations, alike destructive of prosperity and harmony. The Attorney General said that he was in favor of repealing the law, and taking the lands as indicated on the field notes of the surveyors. Upon the subject of Railroads, the speaker said the cry against Holladay was a humbug. A Democratic Legislature put the land grant for railroad purposes into Holladay's hands in 1860. His estimate of Burnett as a candidate for Congress was true to life. An old-fashioned Democrat, but of little brains or force. Is now going about the State discussing the resolutions of 1798, and the U. S. Bank. If he were elected to Congress, he is so much opposed in principle to railroads, as in all probability to start for Washington with an ox team. He said as an Oregonian he took pride in having a man of talent and force, a creditable Representative from the State, in the Lower House at Washington, whether he be a Republican or Democrat. It would be a disgrace to the whole State to send Burnett there, as he would never be heard from outside of drawing his pay. He was surprised that the Democracy should put so weak a man in nomination, as they had many available men among them, who are vastly his superior. His opinion of Judge Wilson, was, that he was a man of excellent character and ability, and, if elected, would be of use and credit to the State in Congress. From here the Attorney General referred to prominent ideas connected with national politics, which our space forbids us to chronicle here. In the above notice of the Attorney General's speech, we have only alluded to those points which were the easiest for us to remember. Among his concluding remarks he pronounced a splendid eulogy upon the wisdom and integrity of President Grant, saying, that out of eleven committees granted by a Republican Congress to the enemies of Gen. Grant for the purpose of discovering something in his official character which would tell against him before the people, not one of them had succeeded in making a point. He stands before the American people to-day unconvicted of any dishonesty, eleven investigating committees being his judges.

The Democrat denies that under the operations of the Swamp Land Law the homes of settlers have been swept away. He says "that the Board of Land Commissioners passed a rule at the commencement of their labors, that all settlers having claimed and improved land that came within the description of swamp or overflowed, should not be molested." Notwithstanding this assurance was given, and the apprehensions of settlers were relieved to some extent, it not entirely, by it, still settlers have been molested, and their lands have been taken away from them by this unjust law. The Democrat defies us to give a single instance of where this tyrannical law has "swept away," as we were pleased to express it, the homes of settlers. In the list filed in the Roseburg Land Office, there are lands designated and selected as swamp, some of which were purchased from the General Government some ten years ago. Those lands were selected and offered for sale as swamp land within Douglas county. The owners of them had paid their money and received their titles from the United States. William Beal received a patent for land entered August 1868, in township 21, section 21 and 22. John Wade received a patent for land entered July 6th, 1864 in section 23. Thos. Cunningham, in section 9. C. M. Clark, in section 18. Homesteads of John Lyster and Marion Smith, taken about five years ago in section 18; also in township 22, Edward Breen. Now, Mr. Democrat, these are actual cases of lands offered for sale, probably sold by this time, under the provisions of this infamous law, in Douglas county, which were bought and paid for years ago. Then when we consider the fact that all the speculator had to do was to go to Salem and indicate the metes and bounds of the land he desired, pay his twenty cents on the acre and come into ownership, substantially, of the lands so pointed out, no definite survey being necessary, is it not probable, certain indeed, that hundreds of squatter's claims would be swallowed up in some of the princely grants which this law granted to the favored ring? When we consider that six millions of acres of the best lands in Oregon were seized by between one and two hundred speculators, taken without affidavit as to their true nature; unsurveyed, the limits or bounds only being pointed out—application only being necessary to secure them—would it not be very strange were there no instances in which the poor squatter's home and little improvements were not taken? It would be passing strange. Hundreds of these homes are now covered by these claims. Pre-emptors have been threatened by land speculators in the past in order to frighten them off of the swamp land. Pre-emptor's claims, however, are not only swallowed up by this law, but the principle involved in it endangers every man's property.

White Hats and Coats.

We learn from some of our exchanges, that since the sage of the Tribune has been put in nomination for the Presidency, white coats and hats have become all the rage among Liberal Democrats. We have noticed quite a number of our Albany Democrats sporting white titles of recent purchase, and it has excited our curiosity. Have they gone over to the Greeley platform, or, are they simply trying to accustom themselves to one of the preliminary steps? Let us suggest to our Albany admirers of "White Hat," that in order to be Greeleyized properly, you should cultivate an extensive skating rink on the top of your heads, wear your white hats resting easily though well pushed down on the nape of your necks, thus giving to the front rim a lofty pose, as indicative that your sentiment on a tariff are "high" and well "protected."

"ECONOMY IS WEALTH."

"TIME IS MONEY."

SAVE YOUR TIME,

And Accumulate WEALTH,

BY BUYING YOUR

DRY GOODS,

HARDWARE,

GROCERIES,

NOTIONS,

Clothing!

CROCKERY,

HATS,

BOOTS & SHOES,

PILLS,

LINIMENT,

PAINTS,

OILS,

IN FACT

ALMOST ANYTHING YOU MAY HAVE OCCASION TO USE,

UNDER ONE ROOF.

READY PAY,

—AND—

PROMPT PAYING

SHORT-TIME CUSTOMERS,

WILL FIND, AS HERETOFORE,

—AT THE—

STORE OF THE SUBSCRIBER,

At all Times,

A Good Assortment of the

BEST GOODS

—at the—

LOWEST PRICES!

—

ALL KINDS

—OF—

Merchantable Produce!

BOUGHT.

A. WHEELER.

Shedd, Oregon, April 5, 1872-61

NEW TO-DAY.

CASH!

AND THE HIGHEST MARKET PRICE will be paid for

WOOL,

delivered at SHEDD during "the season." A. WHEELER.

March 25-30m3

Rounds, Woodcock & Co

Proprietors & Manufacturers of

HUNTER'S

Grain Separator,

JUNCTION CITY.

Received the Diploma at the State

Fair of 1871.

PRICE REDUCED TO

FIFTY DOLLARS!

These Machines are warranted substantially made, and are not to be surpassed in cleaning Wheat for seed, and are equally good for cleaning Oats.

Send in your orders, and we will warrant satisfaction. Address,

ROUNDS, WOODCOCK & CO., Junction City, Or.

Jan. 25, 1872-21m3

These Machines are warranted substantially made, and are not to be surpassed in cleaning Wheat for seed, and are equally good for cleaning Oats.

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GROCERIES

AND

PROVISIONS,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

CORNER FIRST & BROAD ALBIN STS.

ALBANY, OREGON,

A. C. Layton,

Proprietor.

I HAVE ALWAYS IN STORE A FULL and complete supply of

STAPLE

& FANCY

GROCERIES!

PROVISIONS!

Tobacco & Cigars,

Which I will sell for cash as low as the lowest, or exchange for all kinds of merchandise.

COUNTRY PRODUCE!

Received and in store a large quantity of

ISALD SALT,

which I will sell cheaper than ever before offered in this market.

I extend a general invitation to all people in this and adjoining counties, to call and examine the quality and prices of goods, as I feel confident of my ability to give thorough satisfaction.

Call and see me.

February 16-24v4

JOHN SCHMEER.

JOHN SCHMEER, Dealer in—

Groceries & Provisions, ALBANY, OREGON.

Has just opened his new grocery establishment on corner of Elsworth and First streets, with a fresh stock of Groceries, Provisions, Candles, Cigars, Tobacco, &c., to which he invites the attention of our citizens.

In connection with the store he will keep a Bakery, and will always have on hand a full supply of fresh bread, crackers, &c.

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