

gating canal would make productive a belt as wide as the supply of water could be made to spread over and across this entire country, and would secure a cordon of settlements connecting the present population of the mountain and mining regions with that of the older States. All the land reclaimed would be clear gain if alternate sections were reclaimed by the Government. I would suggest that the reclaimed sections be thrown open to entry under the homestead law, and sold to actual settlers at very low prices.

AMNESTY.

I renew my previous recommendation to Congress for general amnesty. The number engaged in the rebellion, laboring under disadvantages, is very small, but enough to keep up a constant irritation. No possible danger can ensue to the Government by restoring them to eligibility to hold office.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

I suggest for your consideration the enactment of a law to better secure the civil rights which freedom should secure, but has not effectually secured to the enfranchised slaves.

(Signed.) U. S. GRANT.
EXECUTIVE MANSION, Dec. 1, 1873.

Albany Register.

U. S. Official Paper for Oregon.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10, 1873.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Congress has organized and gone to work. A large number of bills have been introduced, and notice of the introduction of others at an early date has been given. One of the House committees has agreed to introduce a bill repealing the salary-grab act. It provides for the reduction of the pay of Congressmen from \$7,500 to \$5,000, beginning with the present Congress, and dates back to March 4th. If this bill passes, each Congressman will have to refund about \$1,800—the amount received since last March. No mileage, stationery, or other perquisites are allowed. This reduction of pay extends to Cabinet and Bureau officers, but does not effect the pay of President Grant and Judges of the Supreme Court; but it provides for a reduction of the President's salary after Grant's term expires, and for a reduction of the salary of every new Justice of the Supreme Court hereafter appointed.

Commander Lorraine, of the British war vessel *Nisibe*, has distinguished himself, and will hereafter occupy a high place in the esteem of Americans. As soon as news of the massacre of the *Virginian's* crew reached him, he, with his vessel, left Jamaica with such dispatch that several of his crew were left on shore, and hastened to Santiago. He didn't even stop to cast anchor in the harbor, but hastened ashore and protested against the further killing of the *Virginian's* crew. Gen. Burriel insolently replied, by letter, that every execution that had been ordered would be proceeded with. Commander Lorraine instantly returned the reply that, in the absence of an American man-of-war, he would protect not only the interests of England but those of the United States, and that if Burriel harped a hair of another prisoner, he would bombard the city. This prompt action on the part of the British Commander, no doubt saved the lives of the rest of the *Virginian's* crew. All honor to Commander Lorraine.

Here is an account of how the *Virginian's* prisoners went to their death: Varano, Cespedes, Del Sol and Ryan were shot early in the morning, the latter showing extraordinary coolness and courage, trudging along as gaily as if going to his wedding. A priest advanced to his side when the place of slaughter was reached, and offered the religious services of his office, but Ryan waved him off. Officers of the *Morning Star* say it is not true that the inhabitants of Santiago were wild with joy, but, on the contrary, they were exceedingly silent and made no demonstration whatever.

The propeller *City of Detroit* sunk in Saginaw Bay in a gale on the morning of the 6th. She had a crew of twenty men, most of whom it is feared were lost.

A day or two since the Portland Democratic *News* charged that Attorney-General Williams sent a dispatch to District Attorney Gibbs instructing him "not to urge the indictment of persons accused of violating the election law at the recent election in this State, and threatening him with removal from office in case of refusal." Yesterday's *Oregonian* contains the dispatch sent by the Attorney-General to Judge Gibbs, as well as Gibbs' reply thereto, which brands the statement of the *News* as false in every particular. However, we suppose the Democratic ink-slingers must be permitted to use the only gift they possess—that of lying.

Captain General Jovellar, of Cuba, upon receiving orders from the Madrid Government to deliver up the *Virginian*, responded by resigning his position, and demanding that another person be sent who can carry out the orders of the Government. In the meantime Havana telegrams state that the feeling in that city is improving, and opposition to the delivery of the *Virginian* is rapidly decreasing. However, our Government is still pushing the work of putting in fighting trim the whole of her navy, so that we may be prepared at the earliest hour for any emergency that may arise in the Cuba matter.

And now comes the news from Mexico that a religious war is feared. At Tezcoatlán, recently, the Catholics attacked the Protestants with shouts of "Live our religion" and "Death to Protestants." Troops were sent to arrest the rioters and prevent further trouble. Another dispatch says that the rioters burned alive the Alcalde of Auguier.

The announcement that President Grant has appointed Judge Williams Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, gives the liveliest satisfaction in Oregon. No man in America has gained so great a reputation for ability and statesmanship in so short a time as Judge Williams. He will fill the position with honor to himself and the country.

Beck has introduced a bill to cut off the allowance for the President's house in consideration of his increased salary, coupled with two other propositions to abolish all pay and allowance to members. A bill to require uniform charges on railroads has been introduced into the House; also, a bill to admit grain bag materials duty free.

A terrific storm passed over Toronto, Canada, on the 4th, destroying \$100,000 worth of property. On the evening of the same day, at Fort Garry, a destructive fire occurred, by which the Parliament building was destroyed, with all the books and official documents.

The official report from U. S. Naval officers at Santiago de Cuba state that the number of men captured on the *Virginian* was 155, 54 of whom were executed. Of the 102 now living, 14 are naturalized Americans.

Still Troublesome.

The decision of Judge Mosher, declaring the action of the State Board of Equalization invalid, and the subsequent order of the Governor, directing that taxes be collected throughout the State upon the basis of equalization effected by the several County Boards, does not settle the legality or illegality of the question raised at all. "Suppose," says the *Oregonian*, "some of those counties which are required to pay more State taxes by taking this basis than they would by taking the basis of the State Board, should conclude to insist upon the legality of the action of the latter, how would the collection be made?" As we were informed, the decision of Judge Mosher was to have been appealed from to the Supreme Court, which certainly would have been the most sensible course to pursue in the matter, as a term of the Court was about to convene, and the matter could have had a speedy settlement, and would not have embarrassed the collection of taxes at all. As the matter now stands the question is liable to be raised at any time, delaying the collection of taxes and working a hardship to the State, that might have been avoided had the proper course been pursued at first.

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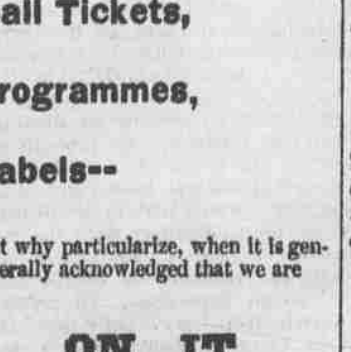
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