

Albany Register.

U. S. Official Paper for Oregon.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1874.

The Republican State Central Committee, which met in Portland on Thursday, decided unanimously to call a Republican State Convention, to meet in Salem, on Wednesday, April 8th. The Committee suggested that the primaries be called on Saturday, March 21st, and the County Conventions on the Saturday following, March 28th. Linn county will be entitled to nine delegates to the State Convention. C. W. Parrish, Chairman of the Committee, presented his resignation, which was accepted, and Col. N. B. Knight, of Marion county, elected Chairman. Dr. Ballard, of this county, W. W. Bristow, of Lane, and R. F. Nichols, of Polk county, resigned their positions as members of the Committee.

We have no space this week for comments.

The Proposed Railroad.

The Portland, Dalles & Salt Lake Railroad, as contemplated, is to be a narrow gauge road, extending from Kelton, on the Central Pacific, to Portland, Oregon, a distance of seven hundred miles, and will cost some \$7,000,000. The bill now before Congress provides that the Company may issue its bonds to the extent of \$10,000 per mile, and no more, in gold, bearing five per cent. interest annually, for the construction of the road, and the Government is asked to guarantee the payment of the interest on these bonds as fast as the road is completed, for twenty years, amounting to \$350,000 per year. In return for this guarantee on the part of Government, the road is to transport the U. S. mails and Government stores, free of charge, forever. As the Government now pays nearly that sum for transporting the mails alone over that route, it would seem that the completion of the road under the bill will be a most economical measure, not to speak of the vast benefits otherwise to accrue.

In the United States Senate, on the 19th, Senator Kelley presented a petition of the citizens of Oregon in regard to the charges against his colleague, Mitchell, and asking the same to be investigated by the Senate. Senator Kelley said he had been acquainted with Mitchell for twelve years, and knew nothing that would be derogatory to his character. In presenting the charges he desired it to be understood that he said nothing in favor or against him—that matter should be left with the Committee. He moved that the subject be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and it was so ordered.

HOW AGE YOU, POLITICIANS?—The farmers of Grant county recently met in Convention, and, among other things,

Resolved, That we will, neither directly or indirectly, give our support to any professional politician for the purpose of elevating him to any office of honor or trust.

Which is why, we haven't a doubt, The politician's trade is fast playing out; And if the Grangers follow up their well-laid plan, The Farmer is certainly the "Coming Man."

Dr. W. C. McKay, with his brother, Donald McKay, War Chief of the Warm Spring Indians of Modoc fighting fame, contemplates making the tour of the Eastern States the coming season with a number of Warm Spring Indians, and to that end is now visiting the Columbia River Valley, for the purpose of obtaining samples of the products of Oregon, as well as obtaining valuable information in regard to the resources of the State, upon which he will lecture, in connection with the exhibition, throughout the East. The fame of the Warm Spring Indians and their brave Chief was fully established during the Modoc war, and immense audiences will greet their every exhibition in the East, proving a very remunerative venture. They will start probably next month.

A Farmer's Suggestions to his Fellow-Farmers.

D. S. R. B., writing to the Jacksonville *Sentinel*, under date of February 10th, 1874, discussing the advisability of introducing a new class of productions, on suitable soils, in various portions of the country, classes among those that he believes will prove most profitable to Southern Oregon farmers, the Sugar Beet. He says the Sugar Beet is "easily raised and is suitable to all our alluvial soils, upon which forty tons per acre would not be too much to expect." Next in point of profit, D. S. K. B. classes "Ramie," for the production of fibre, and to the facts with regard to this plant we wish to call the attention of the farmers in the Willamette Valley. "Ramie," says this correspondent, is a native of the Island of Java, and was first introduced into the United States in 1837. In 1870, a Mr. Lynch introduced it into California, where it has been successfully and profitably cultivated ever since. It is a perennial, very hardy, rapid in its growth, grows spontaneously after once planted, and is harvested with a reaping machine—twice or thrice a year—realizing about a ton per acre at each cutting. The fibre is very white, fine and glossy. It is used in making all kinds of cloth, from the coarsest duck to the finest dress goods. It is in every respect equal to silk, having a gloss more like satin, and is the strongest fibre known, being stronger than the best Belgian flax. It has a carrot-shaped root that will penetrate the soil to the depth of six or seven feet. Once started, there is no stopping it. The fibre will grow from five to nine feet in length. The fibre is worth from 20 to 30 cents a pound in its raw state, and the demand for it is unlimited. Oakland, California, has a factory in successful operation, and other factories, in various portions of that State, are about to be erected for the manufacture of Jute, its proper name when separated from the plant.

If the above statements with regard to Ramie or Jute can be relied upon, and we have no reason to doubt them, it would seem that its cultivation here would prove very profitable. If it will pay California to enter largely into the production of the fibre, using her best and highest priced wheat lands in its cultivation, with a superior market for her surplus grain, Oregon ought also to make it a profitable business. The cultivation of this plant here would also open the way for the introduction of a new business enterprise, the manufacture of the fibre into grain sacks, cloth, etc. While California might be depended upon, probably, as a good market for all the fibre produced, yet it would be vastly to our advantage to manufacture it here in Albany, thus utilizing the almost unlimited water power furnished by the Albany & Santiam Canal, increasing and diversifying our business interests, and adding largely to the wealth and population of our city and county. Any business enterprise that increases the population and adds to the wealth of our city, adds in a corresponding ratio to the benefit and general welfare of the surrounding country. This is a matter well worth the attention of our enterprising farmers, and it is to be hoped they will give it proper thought. Ramie plants can be obtained from nurserymen in Alameda county, California.

The *Bulletin* has authority for stating that three hundred miners left Fort Wrangle for the Stickeen mines on the 10th. They found large quantities of grub scattered all along the road, thrown away by overloaded sleds. The weather had been cold, but nothing like as cold as they had been led to expect, and it was then raining. All were in excellent spirits, with high hopes of making the venture "pay." Success attend them.

The new Tremont House, Chicago, one of the grandest pieces of architecture and most magnificently furnished hotels in the world, was opened to the public on the 16th. James and Ira Couch are the proprietors.

They were sowing wheat in the vicinity of Lewiston, Idaho, last week. About Centerville, W. T., the farmers are plowing.

Famine in British India.

The mails bring fuller reports of the dreadful famine now prevailing in Bengal, and explaining the cause. The distress is said not to be so great as in 1770, when ten millions perished, but is likely to equal if not surpass the famine of 1865, when one million died of starvation. The Calcutta correspondent of the *London Times* gives this explanation of the situation: In Bengal the daily consumption of rice is 37,000 tons. The last crop failed in many of the districts, and the destitution affects twenty millions of people. The British Government has been buying up all the surplus rice in the adjacent provinces and islands, but had succeeded in obtaining a supply for only two months. Government is using every exertion to enable the people to obtain food, regardless of expense. Every thing that can be done to mitigate the sufferings of the people will be done by the authorities of British India.

General News.

Ex-President Baez, of San Domingo, is in Washington.

On the 18th, the St. Louis & St. Joseph Railroad was sold for \$100,000. It was bought in the interest of the bondholders, by Chas. W. Hassler.

A fire at Bryan, Texas, originated in the Store of G. W. Smith & Co., and consumed the principal business block in the city. Loss, \$120,000—insurance, \$30,000.

The ship Columbia, while loading with a general cargo at Hong Kong for San Francisco, took fire and burned to the water's edge.

Stokely has been elected Mayor of Philadelphia by a 100 majority. Two women were elected school directors on the Republican ticket. The Democrats gain members of the Common Council in three wards.

Havana, Cuba, dates to the 15th say the police have made several arrests of parties charged with taking a leading part in the demonstration on Thursday evening. Among them is Senor Nevada Sala, editor of the defunct Republican journal.

New York dates to the 16th have this: A Key West dispatch states that it is reported by the steamer from Havana that seven thousand volunteers have taken the city, compelling the Captain General to take refuge on board the Spanish war steamer Aripellans.

Stephen Raymond, who is charged with being the leader of a band who operated in Wall street last Summer with forged securities, and was arrested in England, is now safely lodged in the Tombs in New York. The gang passed over \$500,000 worth of forged bonds on the Central, Buffalo and Erie Railroad, and were about to throw upon the market a vast amount of fraudulent bonds of the Western Union Telegraph Company when they were fortunately detected.

Another reported battle in the Central Department, Cuba, in which General Basconez, with 3,000 men and four pieces of artillery, attacked the main body of the insurgents, 5,000 strong, under Santa Lucia, near Narnjo. The battle lasted seven hours, resulting in a Spanish victory, with 50 killed and 104 wounded. Loss of the insurgents not stated. The insurgents in the Central Department are burning houses in every direction.

A Court of Inquiry, in the case of Gen. Howard, has been ordered by the President, to be composed of Generals Sherman, McDowell, Pope, Meigs and Cole, with Major A. B. Gardner for Judge Advocate. The Court will meet in Washington on the 2d of March.

The following postal changes for the Pacific coast have been announced: Postmasters appointed: Levi Wilcox, Cornelius, Washington county, Oregon; A. T. Boice, Hillsboro, same county and State; James A. Master-son, Walla Walla, Washington Territory; S. D. Maxon, Vancouver, Clark county, W. T.

Alexander H. Stevens is dangerously ill with neuralgia of the kidneys.

It is believed that an attempt will be made during the present Congress to repeal all laws governing labor, and leave the question to regulate itself, and regulate supply and demand.

The House Committee on Appropriations have cut down the total appropriations for Legislative, Executive and Judicial expenses from estimates to three or four million dollars, and dispensed with numbers of clerks.

From Beaver Meadows, Penn., we learn that Neil McBride, a miner, was murdered on the evening of the 14th—the murder supposed to have been committed by Neil Paul, an Irishman about 40 years of age, who made good his escape.

Lawrence Norton was murdered at a christening party in Highland District, Massachusetts, on Saturday night last. Five men and two women have been arrested on suspicion of connection with the murder.

A great deal of opposition has been developed against the reduction of the army. The reduction, if made in accordance with the bill, will save about four millions annually.

Sauborn is said to have in his possession the books of the Credit Mobilier, for which he spent, in two months' time, \$11,000 to get. Ben. Butler is said to have been the attorney for the Credit Mobilier, through whose advice the books were run off.

On the morning of the 16th, Thomas and Simon Sturtevant and a maiden lady named Buckley, were found murdered at their residence in Halifax, Massachusetts. No clue to the murderers.

Philip D. Cowle, cashier of the Atlantic Branch of the Freedman's Savings Institution, Atlanta, Georgia, was arrested on the 16th, charged with embezzling \$10,000.

In New York on the 16th, William Conklin, Deputy Sheriff, was convicted on a charge of stealing a \$15,000 gold certificate from B. S. Croft. Sentence deferred.

On the 14th, Mrs. Jas. Gray left three children in her house, seven miles from Lincoln, Nebraska. On her return she discovered that the house was on fire, but before she could reach the house the roof fell in, and all three of the children were burned to death.

A freight train on the Lehigh & Susquehanna railroad, Penn., between 1 and 2 o'clock on the morning of the 16th, ran into a slide near Statesdam station. The engine jumped the track, and eighteen cars were piled upon each other. No one on the train had, as far as could be ascertained, escaped injury. The body of the engineer, Daniel Shamou, was found under the engine considerably buried. The fireman and brakeman were badly scalded and burned. Three others are reported killed. A stove in the caboose set fire to the freight, and nine cars were burned.

At Omaha, Neb., on the 16th Gen. Ord received the following dispatch from Commander Smith, at Fort Laramie: My messenger has just returned from the Agency. Dr. Saville, the Agent, writes that the Northern Indians have all gone to Tongue River, and they alone have committed the recent depredations; that the Ogallallas have faithfully guarded the Agency since Frank Appleton was killed, and that they will prevent the Northern Indians from coming to the Agency or passing through this country. He also says that the Indian who shot Appleton was killed by the Brules, who also recaptured the mules stolen by the Minneceyons. Agent Howard writes through Saville that Spotted Tail has a guard over his Agency. The party who killed Lieut. Robinson and his Corporal consisted of Minneceyons, Onchapas and Sausarcs. Seven Indians were seen a few miles from Camp Stambaugh, on Saturday, which is thought to indicate that Dr. Saville's judgment is correct.

Two Lances and his band are supposed to be south of the South Platte. Nothing has been heard of them. Capt. Mills' command, who started after the Indians, is reported to be near Big Springs, Nebraska. Lieut. Robinson's wife, with his remains, left Cheyenne to-day, bound East.

FOREIGN.

On the 17th the British House of Commons stood, 348 Conservatives, and 300 Liberals and Home Rulers. The Minister had resolved to resign immediately, the journals generally approving the resolution. The *Times* says there was but one member opposed to the decision.

The *Poll Mall Gazette* publishes the report that the British forces took possession of Coomassay, capital of the Ashantee, January 23rd, and commenced the return march to the coast on the 20th of February.

The southeastern portion of Europe has been visited by severe gales. Numerous disasters on the Black Sea reported.

The Steamer Wyoming, which sailed from Liverpool on the 11th inst. for New York, returned to port on the 16th, and went into dock. She encountered a terrific gale on the 13th, and lost her funnel and life boats.

The Czar of Russia is indisposed, meantime the Emperor of Austria is being feted by the Grand Dukes and members of the royal family.

The Madrid Government intends to issue a plebiscite for the country to authorize the repeal of section thirty-three of the Constitution of 1839, relating to monarchy as imperatively necessary to the stability of the present Government. It also contemplates the substituting an ordinary for a constituent Cortes, with Marshal Serrano as President of the Conservative Republic. Castelar, in the event of a plebiscite, will support Serrano's candidature for the Presidency of the Republic.

Telegrams from London, England, to the 15th, say the new Ministry will probably be Disraeli, First Lord of the Treasury; Lord Cairns, Lord High Chancellor; Duke of Buckingham, Lord President of the Council; Duke of Richmond, War Secretary; Lord Northumberland, First Lord of the Admiralty; Mr. Hubbard, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Gathorne Hardy, Home Secretary.

It is rumored that Gladstone will advise the Queen to elevate Chichester Fortescue to the Peerage.

A few elections in Ireland are still pending. With the week ending Saturday, 396 Conservatives and 297 Liberals and Home Rulers had been returned to Parliament. Conservatives gain 60. The House of Commons will contain 216 new members.

The Emperor of Russia will visit England next April.

London dates to the 16th give this: The *Daily Telegraph* reports that the Marquis of Salisbury will be appointed Secretary of State for India.

The Cabinet meets to-day to consider what course to take.

The total number of Home Rulers elected is fifty-one.

The ship Abraham Lincoln, from Cardiff for Messina, has been wrecked; five men were drowned.

The *Standard* says a consistory will be held at Rome in June, when eight more Cardinals will be appointed, including Archbishop Manning.

From Madrid, Spain, February 15th: The Carlists will soon be obliged to raise the siege of Bilbao.

General Rivera, with an advance of two thousand strong of General Moriones' army, is now with nine miles of Portugal.

The National troops have defeated a band of two thousand Carlists before Tolosa and retaken the city.

As soon as the Congressional chaplain closes his appeal to the Throne of Grace there is a clapping of hands all over the floor. It is the way the members have of calling pages to their side. Every Congressman begins his day's labor by giving an order to a messenger; hence the clapping is universal and uproarious. "Well, that beats me," said an elderly man in the gallery, with mud on his boots, which looked as though it had been brought from the other side of the Potomac: "I don't see anything in that prayer worth cheering."

A Virginia lady has recently paid \$30 for four applications of a madstone in Richmond, for which the owner paid \$1,000. Each application lasted twelve hours, and the pain caused by the bite of a mad dog was finally removed.

The Metropolitan Hotel in Newburg was sold last week for \$3,000.