

Albany Register.

U. S. Official Paper for Oregon.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1874.

Business very quiet indeed.

The dailies failed to arrive by mail yesterday.

Greenbacks quoted at 91@91½ in San Francisco on the 16th.

A Ministerial crisis is reported as impending at Madrid.

Wells, Fargo & Co. paid an annual dividend of \$200,000 on the 15th.

Wm. Tally talks of taking a spin out south for a few days, during the heated term.

Roads leading out from this city are in splendid order, and fine turn-out to be had at our livery stables.

Messrs. Titus, Bourgardes & Co. have lost a fine horse, and they will pay handsomely for his return. See notice elsewhere.

H. C. Newby has taken Prof. E. F. Sox into partnership in the new warehouse building anent the depot.

California and Kentucky spring wool is quoted at 30@40c in Boston.

S. B. Parrish has been appointed Indian Agent for the Malheur Agency in this State.

The late attempt on Bismarck's life is laid to Catholic influence, and there is intense excitement in Berlin.

Orangemen, while returning from church service on the 12th at Montreal, had their badges torn from them, and were otherwise insulted.

A priest named Kolterer has been arrested under the belief that he was an accessory to the recent attempted assassination of Bismarck.

Gen. Beauregard has been appointed chief engineer for the Argentine Republic, with a salary of \$20,000 in gold per annum.

A Little Rock special on the 14th, says another war is imminent in Arkansas. All the militia was under arms. They seem to be in a terrible state of anarchy down there.

Telegrams deny that the whole State of Minnesota is ravaged by grasshoppers. Only one-twelfth of the crops will be damaged, and only one-tenth of the State and population. Very good.

The Emperor of Austria is reported as in danger of assassination, the police of Vienna having issued a circular giving a description of the supposed would be assassin of royalty.

The question of a legal separation of Mr. and Mrs. Tilton is now in the hands of N. B. Morse, formerly Judge of the Court of Appeals, and Mrs. Tilton's step-father.

A game of chess is to be played between French and English players—the first in Paris and the others in London—the moves to be conveyed by telegraph.

The Victoria Standard of the 8th says: Four children were given birth to in this city on yesterday, a girl and three boys—all doing well.

Destructive Fires.

Another terrible fire occurred in Chicago on the 14th, which for a time bid fair to destroy the whole city. The entire fire department was on hand, and by the most strenuous exertions succeeded in getting control of the fire, not before, however, some eight millions worth of property had been destroyed.

On the same date a disastrous fire occurred at Iowa Falls, which destroyed the whole business portion of the town. Forty-five buildings were burned, creating an aggregate loss of \$100,000.

Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on the 14th, received a visit from the fire fiend. It originated on Main street, near the Beckwith House, and proceeded northward on that street for half a mile, and then westward to the lake. A few stores and factories were destroyed, but the great aggregate of property burned was dwellings. Loss estimated at \$1,500,000.

Benton county citizens are deeply interested in getting a railway built from Corvallis to Yaquina Bay, a distance of forty miles. A proposition has been submitted to the citizens of Benton county by certain parties hailing from Frisco, that if they (the Bentonites) will furnish \$200,000, the amount necessary to grade the road ready for the iron rail, the road would at once be built and the necessary rolling stock placed upon it to supply all demands for transportation. Subscription books have been opened, and it is thought the amount will be raised. Success to the enterprise. If the building and equipping the road only depends upon the raising of two hundred thousand dollars, that amount ought to be pledged in ten days.

Pinchbeck, contestant for a Senatorial seat from Louisiana, is in trouble. A German saloonist refused to sell him a glass of beer to be drank by Pinchbeck on his premises, on account of Pinchbeck's color, and Pinchbeck becomes so much affronted thereat that he sues the saloonist, laying his damages at \$5,000. Pinch must have been terrible thirsty.

Near McConnellsburg, Pa., on the 12th, Mrs. John Moore, while in a state of mental aberration, shot and killed her husband who was asleep, and then with a razor inflicted horrible wounds upon the head and neck of one of her children, and with a pitchfork almost killed another.

A Georgia man, Mr. Charles Dyer, is credited with inventing a flying machine. It is constructed of iron, and is worked by steam. When put in motion, the machine elevates itself in the air, going in any direction indicated by the rudder with perfect safety and at a rate of speed equal to that of a bird.

Hon. E. B. Washburne, of Illinois, present U. S. Minister to France, is mentioned as the most proper man as candidate for President of the United States. Mr. Washburn would make an excellent President, but it is a long time between now and the assembling of a nominating convention.

J. H. Houghton has been chosen Secretary of the Olympia and Tacoma Railroad Co. in place of Mr. Hoffman, resigned.

Inter-State Commerce.

Senator Hager, of California, in a recent speech in the United States Senate, on the power of Congress to regulate inter-State commerce, presents the subject in a somewhat new light. Below we quote a portion of his remarks:

"I do not say, for I am not sufficiently conversant with the facts, whether or no railroad charges from the Pacific westward are in excess of other roads, but it must be remembered these roads (the Central and Union Pacific) were substantially built by the munificence of the people, and not by private capital; and yet the people have no control over them or property interest in them, and cannot avail themselves of them on account of cost for the transportation of their products and that which they consume. The people of the valley of the Mississippi cannot ship grain to the port of San Francisco, thence to be shipped to China or Japan, no matter what the demand might be, at the present rate of transportation. For that matter, neither can they send by rail to New York to be shipped to Europe so as to compete with Russia. Unless some more advantageous carrying facilities, some cheaper mode of transportation be devised for delivering our surplus products at our seaports, Russia will soon be underselling us, not only in foreign markets, but even in New York and Boston. To prevent such a calamity is there no government relief? Are we entirely dependent upon the magnanimity of private enterprise? Then private enterprise, not the Congress, regulates commerce among the States."

His illustration of the Suez Canal was quite apposite:

"Take the case of the Suez Canal. It has been built by private individuals. The governments of Europe, ascertaining that that they were charging beyond what would be a fair recompense, had a sort of international congress in which they demanded that the rates should be reduced; but the owners of the canal said, 'No; we will not reduce the rates; the canal is our private property.' The sovereign power of the Sultan and the Khedive was appealed to, and when it was found reasonable that the charges should be reduced, there was a sovereign power there that was competent to bring about the remedy required; otherwise commerce might have been driven from that canal to some other channels, but the nations in Europe found it important to control it. Before Vasco de Gama discovered the passage around the Cape of Good Hope, the commerce of Asia enriched all the cities upon the Mediterranean. Alexandria, Venice, Genoa, were so enriched and made magnificent by that commerce, overland commerce as it was. Trieste and Marseilles are now sustained almost entirely by that commerce."

One of the best things about the Grange movement is the effort to make the American farmer remember that his house is not a tent in the desert, but a home, and should have all those surroundings which make home agreeable. Why should not our farmers have houses and surroundings, beautified by flowers and shrubbery, instead of regarding his glebe as merely a track of ground upon which to dig, or mow or chop cord-wood for a living?

A BETTING MOURNER.—A lake

steamer was being repaired and repainted near one of the wharves of a western city. A single narrow plank served for communication with the shore. A large quantity of white lead was provided for the painters, and one night, before going ashore, two of them, whom we shall call Smith and Jones, thought they would appropriate some of it to their own use. So they tied a strong twine around their overalls at the ankle and tilted in the empty space between their trousers and overalls with forty pounds, more or less, of white lead. Going ashore in the dusk of the evening, and walking clumsily in consequence of the unusual loading, Jones stumbled overboard into the lake. Of course he sank like a millstone. The alarm was given, and immediately there were boats got out, and every preparation made for the rescue. Meantime, Smith stood on the shore, loudly bewailing. "O, dear, dear! Jones is drowned! His poor wife and five little ones—what will become of them? And Jones is dead! O, dear, dear!" "What are you blubbering about?" said a bystander. "Don't you see they are getting ready to haul him out? He's got to rise three times, you know." "What's that you say?" said Smith. "I tell you Jones ain't drowned—he'll be rescued. He's got to come up three times!" "Got to come up three times!" repeated Smith, pulling out his money and changing his whining tone to one of excited interest. "Bet you the stamps he don't come up once!"

In remarking upon Senator Hager's speech, an exchange says:

"Private enterprise, deriving all its financial strength from public donations—a private enterprise which ought to be public—is at this moment regulating the commerce between both sides of the continent, and not the General Government. But, while taking the ground that the General Government had the power to control this whole matter, the Senator was careful not to commit himself to any line of policy which might involve more subsidies, under the system which has already been productive of so much evil."

Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard has been assigned to command the Department of the Columbia, by the President, and is ordered to headquarters at Portland at once. The order relieving Gen. Davis had not been promulgated on the 6th, and it is not known where he will be stationed.

At Ripley, Ohio, on Sunday, Chas. Swisher was courting the daughter of John Corbett. John ordered Swisher out of the house, when the latter shot him seriously, and fled with the daughter. Her brother Taylor pursued, and was shot and killed by the lover, who is still at large.

A letter from Aumaville says: "Considerable dissatisfaction is expressed in this neighborhood at the changing of our mail days from Wednesdays and Saturdays to Mondays and Thursdays. We received most of our papers by Saturday's mail, and the present arrangement lays them over at Turner, only four miles off, for two days. This condition of affairs is very unsatisfactory to reading people who like to read the news before they hear it from their neighbors."

Comets and Things.

It is now believed that shooting stars are often fragments of comets. In 1845 Biela's comet became divided into two portions which swung away from each other, until in 1853 they were several millions of miles apart. One of the portions was again discovered 1872; the other portions of the earth plunged through about the same time (Nov. 28), giving rise to the wonderful star-shower of that year. Astronomers have also succeeded in showing the probable connection of a comet observed in China, in 1367 with a great star-shower observed that year. Rlinkerfues regards the comet seen in 1162 as probably identical with Biela's comet, and also as having been intimately connected with the shower of meteors known to have been observed in 1524.

The meteorite which fell in Northern Germany in May 1872, set the roof of a house on fire whereby that and several other buildings were destroyed. On the 17th of June, 1873, a brilliant meteor was seen over Southern Germany. When first seen its height was calculated to be about eight and half miles. At about half that distance it exploded with a fearful noise and the fragments fell burning to the earth, some of which, of the size of peas, were secured by the inhabitants. The diameter of the mass is concluded to have been about 1,000 feet.

POISONED BY A POTATO-BUG.—

Mr. A. W. Shelton came into the office the other day with one side of his face badly swollen and one eye greatly inflamed, caused, as he says, by the poison of a potato-bug. He was "bugging" his potatoes, and as one of the young ones was crawling upon the outside of the machine he struck it with a piece of lath which he carried in his hand, and some of the "juice" struck his face near his eye-lid, causing the painful swelling and inflammation. Two physicians were attending him, and they considered the bug much more powerful as a blistering agent than Spanish flies.—Aurora (Ill.) Herald.

CHINCH BUGS IN ILLINOIS.—Farmers in Morgan and adjoining counties are greatly alarmed at the vast number of chinch bugs which have appeared among the corn and spring wheat. Some fields of the latter have been entirely ruined, and the corn, in many cases, is black with them. The self-raking reaping machines in cutting winter wheat, rake bushels of bugs. This wheat is entirely harvested, and the bugs cannot hurt it, but they are going to adjoining fields. A heavy rain would wash them away considerably, and there is a good prospect of that soon.

An old lady residing near Silverton, named Keizer, died very suddenly on Tuesday of last week. She was in apparent good health, having attended a campmeeting on the previous day and exhibiting no signs of disease whatever. While sitting on a chair on the day in question, she passed away without a struggle. She was upwards of seventy years of age.

The three prisoners who escaped from the Walla Walla jail have been recaptured. The half-breeds who were in for selling liquor to Indians surrendered on sight, but the horse-thief, Fox, showed fight and got a load of buckshot.