

Bedrock Democrat.

J. M. SHEPHERD, EDITOR.

BAKER CITY, JANUARY 7, 1874.

THE BEDROCK DEMOCRAT

Has the Largest Circulation of any Paper Published in Eastern Oregon.

OFFICIAL PAPER

For the Counties of

Baker and Grant.

EASTERN OREGON.

Persons in the Eastern States are constantly writing us letters of inquiry in relation to this portion of Oregon, and as it is impossible for us to answer each individual letter, by writing to each correspondent, we propose to give a general answer in this article.

What is known as Eastern Oregon is that portion of the State lying east of the Cascade range of mountains, embracing Wasco, Umatilla, Grant, Union and Baker counties; it is bounded on the north by the Columbia River and Washington Territory, on east by Snake rivers and Idaho Territory, and on the south by California and Utah, and embraces considerable more than one-half of the area of the State. The country is well watered by the Columbia and Snake Rivers and their tributaries. The valleys along the various streams which meander through the whole extent of this portion of Oregon, are fine agricultural and hay lands; the foot hills immediately surrounding the valleys are beginning to attract attention, and are looked upon by those who have tested their productiveness, as being equal to the valleys for every thing except hay, and for small grain and fruit they are the best.

The whole country is covered with fine bunch grass, and the higher the altitude the finer the grass becomes. The mountains which surround the valley are, as a general thing, covered with fine timber, consisting of the various kinds of pine, fir and tamarac, while cottonwood and willow are to be found along the water courses in the valleys. The mountains abound with bear, deer and elk, with other small game, and the streams with trout and other fish.

The mines in Eastern Oregon are a great source of wealth. The placer mines have been worked since 1872, and are still paying well. Quartz mining is carried on quite extensively, and bids fair to become the leading business of this portion of the State. There are being new discoveries of quartz made almost daily, and new mills and other machinery for working quartz are being constantly erected. The mines are the markets to which our farmers have to look for the sale of their surplus products. Our farmers are not farming as extensively as they would if they could find ready sale for what their land would produce. We are in want of the means of quick and cheap transportation to outside markets. As it is now the great staple is cattle.

The climate is pleasant both winter and summer. Farmers, as a general thing, do not have to feed their stock cattle during the winter. The water is pure and healthy. There is plenty of land that can be bought cheap, also plenty that can be taken as homesteads or entered. There is considerable land in this portion of the State which has not yet been surveyed.

We do not claim that we have all the good and no evils to contend with in this section of the State. The Willamette and Rogue river valleys are fine bodies of land but we have as good on our creeks and rivers, and our uplands are better for all purposes than are those west of the Cascades, our lands are as good or better than those for agricultural purposes and for stock grazing the people of that section of the State seek and use ours. Our winters are pleasant, with just sufficient cold weather to make our country healthy and invigorating. We have none, or very little of the rain with which the people west of the Cascades have to contend from about the first of Dec. until in the spring, sometimes as late as the first of May. Our country is as rich as any other portion of the Pacific coast in minerals and the precious ores, and the interests and resources are so diversified that we care not what a man's occupation may be, he can find profitable employment. We have traveled all over the State, and the better we become acquainted with this portion the more we become con-

vinced that this is a good place for either a rich or a poor man to locate, if he wishes to enjoy good health, and make a pleasant and comfortable home. We have a wealthy and contented population, which is steadily increasing. We have good society, schools, churches, &c., in advance of other countries of our age. And, there is now a prospect, that at no far distant day, that we will be connected with the outside world by one or more railroads—then, indeed, this will be a favored land, and if a live, healthy, energetic, go-a-head man cannot make a living here, and accumulate wealth, he might as well sell out and quit business.

COMPETITION FOR FREIGHTS.—The telegraph has made some reference to a contest which has been waged for some time between some noted corporations in regard to the transportation question, as affecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and the country between those points. A fuller text is given the New York Tribune which we quote:

There is an important discussion going on at the present time between the officials of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads on the one side and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company on the other. For a considerable time past there has been an understanding that the railroad companies should make the freight rates for both routes. The rates by rail were the same from Chicago, Quincy and St. Louis to points in California. These are as follows: For each 100 pounds of freight, first class, \$6; second, class \$5; third class, \$4; fourth class, \$3; fifth class, \$2 50. To Chicago the trunk lines charge the following rates, which are to be added to those of the Union and Central Pacific: First class, 75 cents; second class, 70 cents; third class, 60 cents; fourth class, 45 cents; fifth class, 35 cents. The steamer rates are below these, but, adding the difference in time (goods shipped by rail reaching Sacramento or San Francisco in about 10 days, while by steamer it averages 30), the additional rates of the two about the same. The railroad companies guaranteed a certain amount of freight for each regular steamer dispatched from this port by the Pacific Mail Company, or, failing to do so, a sufficient amount of money was given to make up the loss on freight dues. It is said that the managers of the Pacific Mail line are dissatisfied with the existing arrangement, and are threatening to repudiate it, believing that, with the additional facilities they possess with the new steamers recently placed on the route, they can carry cheaper than the railroads, and they therefore propose to make their own rates independent of the railroads. Several conferences have been held, it is alleged, and the matter is still held in abeyance.

BADLY SITUATED.—An Iowa paper in the vicinity of Hamilton says in about the first week of December there was never such a scarcity of water in that section as at that time. Not only the wells but the streams were drying up, and it was found necessary to drive cattle and other animals a long distance to reach water. In addition to this there was fear that the winter would set in and the ground freeze before the rain came. This state of things in that portion of the State, coupled with the failure of crops and an approach to starvation in other portions of Iowa, as stated by us recently, is not very encouraging for the new settlers; but it is hoped a change will take place soon of a more favorable character and be accompanied with a season of good crops and other blessings.

A lady in Brooklyn has got rid of an objectionable man servant. She had protested that he was too expensive. About three months ago she stopped protesting. Last week the gentleman was sitting at the back-room window. The man servant was at work cleaning harness. Presently the lady of the house issued from the house, talked with the servant a few minutes, then threw her arms around his neck, and kissed him heartily a half-dozen times. The gentleman left the window in a hurry, got into the yard rapidly, and the servant man left it more rapidly. Then the gentleman turned to his wife, who exclaimed, "Didn't I tell you I'd get rid of that servant somehow?" The husband returned to the house with a look on his countenance as though he didn't entirely accept the explanation.

A series of caricatures now popular in Vienna represents the Austrian idea of the besetting sins of the great powers. Prussia, a haughty dame resting upon a sword, represents Pride; England is a scrawny female seated on a cotton bale, and is called Avarice; Russia goes skating and howling by under the name of Envy; Turkey lolls on a sofa, a fat dolt, is called Luxury; France, with a man's hat in one hand and a glass of champagne in the other, dances a DECEITFUL cancan, and is called Immodesty; Spain is a wild FETTERED, and represents Anger; Scotland is a bonny lass, dropping to sleep on a mountain side, as Laziness; America sits on a pile of Public Documents, scribbling furiously, and the inquiry she bears the uncanny name of "Zeitungsriebelei."

Commander Haswell, of the Ossipee, has given a full account of the sinking of the Virginus.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22nd, 1873.

Riding to the Devil.

"Put a beggar on horseback and he'll ride to the devil." There are few exceptions to the rule—especially in Congress. The members and their wives who put on the most airs, and pretend that it is impossible to live decently on less than \$10,000 a year, are among the most vulgar and low bred persons in Washington. The speeches of these hog-and-hominy hoonds, on the floor of the House, during the discussion of the salary bill, were deliberate insults to the best men and women of the country—to the officers of the army and navy, for example, who, and whose families, are certainly more creditable representatives of American moral, intellectual and aesthetic culture than the average Congressman and his family. Nor will it be contended that the services of Congressmen are more valuable, involve more personal risk, or require for their proper performance a higher grade of culture, than the services of military and naval officers; yet the incomes of the latter, and of professors in our universities, principals of grammar schools, journalists and magazine writers of national and even of world wide fame, protestant clergymen, catholic priests and other classes of hard working men, of education, taste and acknowledged usefulness, do not average one half of what these vulgar congressmen say is absolutely necessary to the maintenance of a respectable family. The fact is that Washington is just now a city of QUONIAM beggars whom the late war and its consequences have placed on horseback, and who, with Grant at their head, are all riding headlong to the devil. Let them go; but we must take care that they do not drag the country with them.

People are, as a general thing, about as well governed as they deserve to be. This is especially the case where the form of government is republican. There are not a dozen men in both houses of Congress who are really more than fourth rate men. But each man represents the majority of his constituents. The basic evil, then, where there is evil, is with constituents. Many of these representatives have intellectual powers of a high or rather "sharp" order; but these powers are mere tools for the performance of work good or bad, as the case may be. A man's worth should be judged primarily, by his AFFECTIONS—by his likes, his loves, what he wants and tries to accomplish. Judged by this standard—a moral standard call it, if you will—Congress contains few men of a higher grade than fourth rate. Low cunning and selfishness are their marked characteristics. They have not even the aesthetic culture which enables vice to pay a tribute to virtue by imitating it. They do not, as a body, even look like good men. The House, viewed from the gallery, forcibly reminds you of the deck of a convict ship. This may seem hard language; but has not the conduct of these representatives, thus far during the session, been harder? During nineteen days they have accomplished little else than attend to their own personal matters—the arrangement of their own salaries, the proclamation of their own needs, the attempted defense of their indefensible conduct, the magnification of the importance of their services, and personal abuse of each other—and all this while thousands of workmen all over this country are out of employment, while the station houses of the large cities are filled, nightly, with "lodgers" who have no opportunity to earn an honest and independent livelihood, while houses of prostitution are crowded with reluctant recruits who for want of employment and consequent starvation have been driven to lives of shame, while the farmers are suffering for want of facilities for transporting their produce to market at living prices, while money to do business with is dearer, on good security, than in any other country on earth, while the people, already overburdened by onerous taxes are called upon to contribute Forty Millions of Dollars more to the expenses of running the government, while financial and commercial desolation has all but demoralized the entire community.

The Virginus.

It is to be regretted that this country is not going to come out of this Spanish difficulty as creditably as should be desired by every American citizen who has the honor and good of his country at heart. We have

presented to the world, in this affair, the spectacle of a nation acting, practically, in bad faith toward a neighboring power with which we profess to be on friendly relations. During the last quarter of a century, we have, on several occasions, permitted bodies of irresponsible men to leave the ports of New York and New Orleans in vessels loaded with war materials to be used against the Spanish government; but this last time we have gone further still—we have defended an infraction of international law because it was perpetrated under our flag. Virtually, we thus assume the character of a PARTISAN CRIMINAL. It is easy to foresee what would be the verdict, in this affair of the Virginus, of an international court composed of impartial jurists of other nations than Spain or the United States. No nation is bound to respect a band of hostile adventurers because they sail under a flag to which they have no right, any more than I am bound to allow myself to be approached with criminal intent by a professional thief or assassin, because he has chosen to disguise himself in the honorable uniform of a police officer.

A. F. B.

LATE NEWS.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Dec. 29th.

Dr. Wilbanks, of the steamship Tonowanda, which arrived here Sunday from Philadelphia, reports passing a sunken vessel nine miles south of Main Bar with only her topmasts or topgallantmasts out of water. The steam tug Brandt subsequently visited the spot, her officers concurring in the opinion that the sunken vessel was undoubtedly a square rigged steamship. A pork barrel was floating above the wreck, attached to it by a 12 inch hawser, the hawser having been evidently used as a tow rope. The pilots at Holds, at the mouth of the river, state that on Friday last they observed, near the spot where the vessel lies, a large steamer in tow of a full rigged ship, but could not tell whether the latter was a steamer or not. The above facts, taken in connection with a telegram announcing that the steamship Georgia from Charleston, at New York, had spoken the Virginus in tow off Cape Romain on the 24th instant at 2 o'clock p. m., renders it tolerably certain that the sunken ship is the world renowned Cuban filibuster vessel. It is probable that the Virginus, being already leaky, was so much damaged by the gales about Christmas time that an attempt was made to bring her in, and that it was impossible to get her in before she sunk. Her crew were taken off by the man of war having her in charge, which then proceeded on its voyage. The sunken ship lies in about eight fathoms of water, with her head bearing north half east, nine or ten miles distant. A pilot boat from Smithville visited the spot on Sunday evening, and the men who were on her agree in the opinion that she is a steamship. Only a few feet of the mainmast is visible above the water and there are numerous spars floating around her which are probably still attached to the vessel by means of the rigging. It is thought that when she was abandoned the pork barrel was placed as a buoy to mark the spot where she went down. The ship is of course a total loss, as will be next to impossible to raise her. In a few weeks her hull probably will be entirely sunk in the sand.

New York, December 29th.

John F. Patterson of this city has sent a letter to Secretary Fish, dated December 26th, declaring that he is the registered owner of the steamer Virginus. He protests against the opinion of the Attorney General by which he and the vessel were condemned on ex parte testimony furnished by Spain. He states that the Solicitor of the Treasury gave him a bill of sale of the steamer, whereupon he, Patterson, truly swore he was the owner, and the Government gave her an American register, which has ever since protected her. Any testimony charging perjury on his part is false. He has hitherto kept silent by advice of counsel, and because he has not been notified or called upon by the Government to testify or defend himself in relation to the matter, he requests that a copy of the evidence upon which the Virginus and he were condemned by the Attorney General, be sent to him, and that he be notified of the time and place for examination of any other witnesses. A copy of the letter has also been sent to the Attorney General.

A Washington special says Caleb Cushing has been selected for the Spanish mission, for the reason that the Government needs a specially skilled minister to disentangle its business at Madrid.

Twelve of the Virginus prisoners are suffering so from the cruel treatment of their captors that it was necessary to send them to the hospital.

WASHINGTON, December 29th.

It is ascertained from official sources that on the arrival of the Virginus at New York she will be seized by the Collector of the Port and libelled by the District Attorney in accordance with instructions. If, on judicial investigation, it be shown that the vessel had a register obtained by fraudulent means, she will be

sold and the proceeds paid to the United States. Spain can make claim to the vessel, but, if she should, it is positively certain our Government would not entertain such claim. The report that the Spanish Government requires of the United States restoration of the Virginus and payment of indemnity is not believed in official circles.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29th.

The Times' Washington special says that Caleb Cushing having been selected for the Spanish mission is due to the fact that the Government needs a specially skilled Minister to disentangle its business at Madrid, and that at the beginning he told Mr. Fish his case was a bad one. It further quotes from the Sunday Capitol the following editorial criticism on the Attorney General's opinion in the Virginus case, said to have been written by Mr. Cushing:

"By the decision the Attorney General embraced two points: First, that the register of the Virginus being a fraud upon the navigation laws of the United States, had no right to carry the American flag; second, by carrying the American flag which she had no right to carry, she was as much exempt from interference on the high seas by ships of other naval powers as if she had been a regular merchant vessel, prosecuting legitimate trade and lawfully registered. In other words, in the highway of nations, whenever a pirate or outlaw prefers to disguise itself in American colors, it obtains thereby the right of American protection as against those who may be aggrieved by depredations. While the Virginus was committing crime against the United States, which made her an outlaw, liable to seizure and confiscation and her crew put to punishment, so potent was the American flag which she so wrongfully carried that any interference with her operations is an insult to the honor of the United States, for which we are only bound to make war the alternative of atonement. This is simply the doctrine, that a robber going to his work in the stolen clothes of a respectable man is not only entitled to the respect of the person he intends to injure as if he were the owner himself as against his intended victim. This is not the doctrine that the flag protects the ship, but the doctrine that the mask protects the malefactor. It is the offering of a premium on disguise. It is like saying to highway robbers: Rob with your face exposed, you shall be punished; put on your mask, and you shall not be molested."

In New York, December 30th, a fire broke out in a five story building, No. 68 Green street, and before it could be extinguished damage was done to the amount of nearly \$200,000.

The surviving members of the passengers and crew of the Virginus on arriving at New York recently, and on being transferred to a tug boat from the Juniata, which brought them from Santiago, gave rousing cheers for their several benefactors, leading off with three for the commander of the British steamer Niobe, to whom they feel indebted for preserving their lives.

The United States corvette Ossipee, which had the Virginus in tow, and arrived in New York on the night of December 29th, confirms the report that the Virginus, which all along has been in a leaky condition, settled and sunk off Cape Fear.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company and the Pacific Railroad Companies have not yet made a combination and threaten a lively competition. The former has already reduced their passenger fares largely.

The steamship Elb, from London for Hamburg, has been lost at sea, and thirty two persons drowned.

The Government of Spain has relieved Gen. Burriel and ordered him to appear at Madrid to answer charges preferred against him.

The Western World of December says:

"One of our subscribers from Baker City some months since, in writing to the World disparaged the quartz mines and said 'few are worth working,' naming the 'Cannon Creek' particularly. To which the BEDROCK DEMOCRAT takes exceptions. In a late number it says:

"First—the ledge has never been sold and is still in the hands of the original discoverers. Second—it has not given out, but, on the contrary, is getting better. The owners of this ledge have a five stamp mill running on it and have, ever since the mill started, made big wages and profits out of the Ledge. The rock is decomposed quartz and one man can take out fifteen and twenty tons per day. We are assured that the Ledge is very rich, so much so that a pan of the decomposed quartz can be taken and washed, and one dollar to the pan realized. We should say that this fact does not demonstrate that the Ledge had given out."

"Such being the case we are glad to make the 'amende honorable,' and take this occasion to remind our correspondent, and others, that facts and only facts will be thankfully received in future. Further, we wish to say, we do not own one foot of soil, and have not one dollar invested in stocks, bonds, or other enterprises, except our legitimate publishing business, either in the east or west. We have passed many years in the far west, and have the most unbounded faith in its resources. We have no motive under heaven to misstate any portion of that country, and we do not intend to allow the World to be used, by any one, except in the cause of TRUTH."

JAS. W. VIRTUE,

BAKER CITY, OREGON,

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New Haven, Conn.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS.
You are hereby notified that all lands purchased of J. M. Boyd, in the Southeast Quarter of Section Seventeen, in Town Nine South and Forty East, commonly known as Baker City, and Boyd's Addition, and which is situated in Baker county, Oregon, (if said Boyd has not first secured the title of the undesignated to the same), will be forfeited, and will be taken from you without any pay or reward for improvements. Beware!
ROYAL A. PIERCE.
Chicago, Ill., Dec. 8, 1873. n34tf

Postponement!

4th Grand Gift Concert!
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
Public Library of Kentucky.

OVER A MILLION IN BANK!!

Success Assured!

A FULL DRAWING CERTAIN ON
Tuesday, 31st of March, Next.

In order to meet the general wish and expectation of the public and the ticket holders, for the full payment of the magnificent gifts, announced for the Fourth Grand Gift Concert of the Public Library of Kentucky, the management have determined to postpone the Concert and Drawing until
Tuesday, the 31st of March, 1874.
They have realized

Over A Million of Dollars.

And have a great many agents to hear from. No doubt entertained of the sale of every ticket before the drawing, but whether all are sold or not the Concert and Drawing will positively and unequivocally take place on the day now fixed, and if any remain unsold they will be canceled and the prizes will be reduced in proportion to the unsold tickets. Only 50,000 Tickets have been issued and \$12,000 Cash Gifts.

\$1,500,000

will be distributed among the ticket holders. The tickets are printed in coupons, of tenths, and all fractional parts will be represented in the drawing just as whole tickets are.

LIST OF GIFTS:

ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	\$250,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	100,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	50,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	25,000
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	17,500
ONE GRAND CASH GIFT,	10,000
10 Cash Gifts, \$10,000 each,	150,000
30 Cash Gifts, 5,000 each,	150,000
50 Cash Gifts, 1,000 each,	50,000
80 Cash Gifts, 500 each,	40,000
100 Cash Gifts, 400 each,	40,000
150 Cash Gifts, 300 each,	45,000
250 Cash Gifts, 200 each,	50,000
325 Cash Gifts, 100 each,	32,000
11,000 Cash Gifts, 50 each,	550,000

Total 12,000 Gifts, All Cash, Amounting to \$1,500,000

The chances for a gift are as one to five.

PRICE OF TICKETS:
Whole tickets, \$50; Halves, \$25; Tenths, or each coupon, \$5; Tickets for \$1,000; 113 Whole for \$500; 22½ Tickets for \$1,000; 227 Whole Tickets for \$10,000. No discount on less than \$500 worth of Tickets.

The Fourth Gift Concert will be conducted, in all respects, like the three which have already been given, and full particulars may be learned from circulars which will be sent free from this office to all who apply for them.

Orders for tickets and applications for agencies will be attended to in the order they are received, and it is hoped they will be sent promptly, and that there may be no disappointment or delay in filling all. Liberal terms are given to those who buy to sell again. All agents are peremptorily required to settle up their accounts and return all unsold tickets by the 20th day of March.

THO. E. BRAMLETTE,
Agent Public Library Kentucky, and Manager Gift Concert, Public Library Building, Louisville, Ky. n34n9f