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OFFICIAL PAPER FOR BENTON COUNTY

Virginia has sent a military force against illegal oyster dredgers.

Nine-tenths of the business failures are due to speculations outside of the regular business.

During the month of February it is claimed that the public debt was reduced over \$9,000,000.

It is a disappointment to New York politicians that President Arthur did not cut off the official neck of Collector Robinson.

There seems to have been no Congress of late years more free from jobs than the forty-seventh. The professional lobbyists fared badly.

It is claimed that the annual pension payments are now double the interest on the public debt and still a possibility of adding a few more million to be paid to pensioners.

The next U. S. Senate will be composed of two Independents thirty-eight Republicans and thirty-six Democrats. The Independents are Mahone and Riddleberger of Virginia.

Ireland would improve her condition with fewer police barracks and more school houses, more school masters and fewer constables. Organized associations for murder make barracks and police necessary.

Three hundred citizens of New York, representing \$1,000,000,000 of capital, have made known to Gov. Cleveland that they regard the "Five-cent Fare Bill" with grave apprehension as a breach of faith upon the part of the State, and an attack upon the rights of the people. The Governor vetoed the bill.

The right of the electors to vote up or down, and early and often, an article for the constitution, to prohibit the manufacture and sale of spirits, wine, beer and cider is generally conceded by the people to be one of the inalienable rights contemplated by the Declaration of Independence, and included in that clause relating to the pursuit of happiness.

The Republican Congress saved the country from a serious monetary disturbance, and from a leap in the dark, by extending the National Bank Act, against the solid opposition of the Democrats, who now, of course, will have to carry out their policy of destroying the National banks, and put their substitute in place of it.

The recent Democratic minority in Congress which opposes every act of the Republicans, has since become the majority, and must take up the responsibility of undoing what it opposed, and of substituting a policy consistent with their former actions; but consistency with them in the past has been unknown. Republicans will observe with interest the formation of Democratic opinion, which should now take place, preparatory to the impending time for legislative action.

The amount now paid by the Government in pensions is double the interest on the National debt. There was more paid out in pensions last year by ten per cent. than during the entire period from the foundation of the Government to the breaking out of the rebellion. Since 1861 there have been \$562,741,170 67 expended for this purpose, and the appropriation for the coming year is \$100,000,000. This is equivalent to a per capita tax of \$2 50 upon the entire population of the country. It is probably a larger sum than was required for the pay of the army (not its maintenance) at any time during the war.

The Democratic element in Congress which recently opposed the Republican work of modifying the war tariff, and voted in mass against the act the country will look to the present Democratic house for a tariff policy they being now in the majority. The Democratic element in the late Congress which on the one side endeavored to reduce the whisky and tobacco tax in order to preserve a high tariff, and on the other side to preserve a large internal revenue in order to reduce the duties which tax consumption without revenue will now have to be fought out among themselves to give them any tariff policy at all and in the meantime the country and especially Republicans will wait with much curiosity to observe their actions.

Of the steamships lost last year, 18 were American and 192 British, but it must be remembered that these countries own vessels in a similar proportion to the loss.

For every passenger killed by railroad accidents during the past year nearly four and a half millions have been carried safely, showing that this mode of travel is not so dangerous as some imagine.

New Jersey has enacted that in civil suits a verdict agreed to by nine of the twelve jurors shall be received as the decision of the whole number. This will not only increase the number of true bills but somewhat cripple the business of the "professional jurymen."

The legislature of Minnesota has passed an act which raises the license fee for retailing liquors from the present minimum of \$25 a quarter to a minimum of \$200, and from the present maximum of \$100 to a maximum of \$500, with a proviso that it shall not be less than \$100 a quarter in cities having a population of 20,000 or more. On all sides increase of license fees is being accepted as the practical method of dealing with the liquor question.

MESQUIT GRASS. Mesquit grass keeps green the year round, is very hardy, takes root quickly—a mere scattering of the seed over the surface of the ground being sufficient—makes good hay for cattle, I've seen horses eat it with apparent relish, and kills out fern. Upon the latter point a great many adverse opinions are held, but I am speaking from experience and can show any incredulous reader a small patch which I sowed two years ago in mesquit, which then was quite thick with fern but is now entirely covered with mesquit grass and also other patches in process of transformation. Most farmers who have given it a fair trial are of the same opinion. It grows well on hillsides requiring but little soil to propagate it.

Oregon and Pacific Railroad. A recent dispatch from San Francisco says: A gentleman prominently connected with the management of the Oregon Pacific Railroad arrived from the east Saturday, where he has been engaged for the past two months in matters relating to the construction of the proposed road. In conversation with an Oregonian correspondent he stated he was unable to give any detailed account of the contemplated work or the result of his labors in the east, as arrangements had not been finally consummated. It was not improbable that within the next two weeks matters would assume definite proportions so that work will be commenced on short order after the receipt of certain plans. At present the only thing he could state positively is that every important development is under consideration, and when finally decided upon a flank movement would be made and work pushed on to speedy conclusion. A cablegram from London is anxious ly awaited, which would determine the completion of matters to a considerable extent. He leaves for the east this afternoon.

The Oregon and California Railroad. Landed to the Oregon Transcontinental for 99 years. A recent dispatch from New York says: An agreement has been made that the Oregon and Transcontinental shall complete and equip the remaining 125 miles of the southern extension, and receive therefor \$3,600,000 in first mortgage bonds, issued at a rate of \$20,000 per mile, and \$3,800,000 second mortgage bonds; also that the Oregon and Transcontinental Company shall lease the Oregon and California system for 99 years, and pay a rental, first, amount of fixed charges, being interest on first and second mortgages; \$20,000 a year to maintain the organization of the Oregon and California company; third, \$300,000 per annum for three and one-half years, to be distributed as a dividend at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent per annum on the preferred stock of the Oregon and California; and fourth, to pay, from and after July 1st, 1886, to the lesser company, 35 per cent of the gross earnings, with a guarantee that this percentage will be sufficient to pay the fixed charges of \$20,000 per annum for the maintenance of the organization and minimum of 2 per cent dividend on the preferred stock.

And still a later dispatch from New York confirming the same says: "New York, March 18.—At the office of the Oregon and Transcontinental company it was stated that advice received this afternoon announces the acceptance by the London stockholders of a proposition made at a meeting to-day of the Oregon and Transcontinental company, regarding the completion and lease of the road. The Oregon and California road is leased to the Transcontinental company for 99 years. The rental is to be the payment of interest charges of \$20,000 per annum and 35 per cent of the gross earnings."

CONDENSED TELEGRAMS. There are 6000 men employed on the Panama canal, and the work is progressing satisfactorily. The bill to authorize San Francisco to issue bonds for municipal purposes has been signed by the governor. The Irish societies in New York paraded last Saturday. Patrick Egan occupied a carriage in the procession. On account of the great decrease of orders for stamp printing for the internal revenue service, and consequent reduction of work at the bureau of engraving and printing, a considerable reduction of the force employed in that business will soon become necessary.

Polygamy. The doctrine of polygamy as taught and practiced by the fifth and sixth of humanity in Utah's doubtless gaining ground despite the long-winded consideration of congress, says the *Princeton News*. Its growth and spread seems to be as certain a fact, and the "sinful" pay no heed to the acts of the government regarding their behavior, but set right on in the capacity of panderers. The pillars of this degenerate institution have become too firmly fixed to be torn down and destroyed by ordinary legislation. The cause has become an obstinate, if not an alarming one, and only the severest restraints will sever its pernicious hold upon weak humanity. Blind zeal if not an evil itself is productive of evil results of worst character, which fact is made plain, we think by a glance at the rotten institutions of Mormonism. And if the suppression of a great evil is conducive to the welfare and peace of a state or nation, why daily longer about this wholesome sacrifice of virtue honor, principle and common decency? The government in its great solicitude for the welfare and protection of religious liberty, has tolerated this execrable degradation too long. Because the vice practices of polygamy is mantled with the false cloak of worship, is only another and better reason why it should be suppressed. If severe measures must be instituted to restrain it, we cannot see any policy in delaying the matter. On the contrary, to delay longer what is so essential to the common laws of property, is, we believe, to forget our national pride, and lose prestige in the eyes of all civilization.

GENERAL NEWS. A bank is to be opened at Roseburg. The telegraph wire has reach Pendleton. It is stated that work will soon commence on the Salem woolen mills. Mrs. O. Beckwith fell down stairs at Eugene last week and had her arm dislocated. The Salem board of trade is instructed to see if the railroad depot at that place cannot be got down town. Flour at Baker city is \$14 per barrel. Eggs 50 cents per dozen. The Harriberg lodge of I. O. O. F., propose to make an excursion to Salem on the 28th of April. The travel over the Blue mountains from Pendleton is so great that passengers have to wait for their turns at that place. The Roseburg *Plumber* has entered upon its 14th volume. Miss Clara Earhart, daughter of Secretary Earhart, received her young friends at the parental home in Salem on Friday. Edward Somerville, the new Indian agent, for the Unumilla agency, has filed his bond of \$10,000. Some Portland capitalists have purchased the old Crooks donation claim in Linn county, and are going to start an immense hop yard. So great is the confidence shown in New Tacoma by the residents of the city, and surrounding towns, that the majority of them are buying all the real estate they can carry. A prominent citizen of New Tacoma has received a proposal from Eastern capitalists to put up \$100,000 to establish locomotive works in New Tacoma, if the citizens there will put up an equal amount. Mechanics of all kinds at Salem are busy. As the spring opens up there are numerous new buildings started and a general stir in improvement. The La Coter Mail is informed that the Seattle flour and grain mill will be removed to and established at Whatcom, by the Kansas colony. Business prospects at Spokane falls were never more flattering. Eastern capital is pouring in and sales of real estate are large. Two large bricks will be erected this spring, also a building for a furniture factory. Several minor enterprises now being started will also add greatly to the importance of the place. The Tacoma News says: The prospect of liberal subscriptions to the new railroad project of citizens of Steilacoom brightens. Donations of land and money are thus far large, and the prospect now is that all the owners of the land within the limits of the town will make donations, some of them quite liberal. The difficulty of obtaining lumber to carry on building in New Tacoma, is now greater than ever before, and the starting of other mills is looked forward to eagerly. For the entire month past the weather at New Tacoma has been so unparalleled in any country at this season of the year, that it has occasioned remark on every hand.

Work on the Payallup river railroad bridge is being pushed rapidly, about fifty white men being employed. The trestle has reached the north side of the river and only the north approach remains to be finished. Reports from all sections of Benton Oregon indicate increased acreage and better prospects for an immense yield of grain. California proposes to pardon her Chinese convicts, on condition that they return to China for good. Much destruction has been caused by the floods in the Mississippi, and hundreds of negroes are homeless and without food. A German by the name of Kerchberger, who used to live in the vicinity of Harrisburg was recently found dead, in Cow Creek canyon with a rock fastened to his neck. He had been missing some time and no information of his whereabouts could be learned until his dead body was discovered. Island No. 6, situated in the middle of the Mississippi river about 60 miles below Helena, was washed entirely away by the present overflow in that district, and now no vestige is left to show where it once stood. A bill has passed the house in the Illinois legislature to punish wife beaters by whipping. James Elliott, the pugilist, died and was buried in New York City on last week. Surveyor General Tolman is engaged on a new map of Oregon by counties for the postoffice department at Washington. At Walla Walla, the fruit crop will be very short. Peaches, plums, pears and cherries are nipped in the bud, some apples remaining. The following is the business of the Roseburg Land Office for the month of February: 7,029 acres sold for cash; 17 homestead entries embracing 2,637 acres; 9 final homestead proofs embracing 1,415 acres; 34 preemption filings and 5 entries under the timber land law. The Common Council of Portland has under consideration a proposition for lighting the city with electricity. The cost will be \$28,000 a year for five years—higher than at present, but probably not so great as the expense will be in 1885 for gas and oil, as the city is growing rapidly. A gentleman who has resided in the Okanogan country for twenty years past says: The Colville and Moses reservation comprise a vast extent of fine agricultural country, with an abundance of timber, and running streams which abound in salmon and mountain trout. It is much warmer there than in Spokane county, and all kinds of fruit grow remarkably well. A fine country extends up to and into the British possessions, and there are prospects for discovery of rich quartz mines. There is a prospect that a strip of fifteen miles on the north side, where the best mines exist, will soon be thrown open to settlement.—Ex. The school for the blind at Salem will open April 16th. The Dixie mills are to be thoroughly overhauled in time to grind the new crop. Dick Pieburn, residing near Independence, was wounded in the left shoulder last week by an accidental discharge of a rifle. The Astoria Brewery saloon was entered by thieves Thursday night, who took six dollars from the till and several small articles that came under their notice. A weekly stage has been established between Prineville and Harney. The placer mines at Mormon Basin are in operation with a good supply of water. On Thursday night 100 immigrants landed from the cars in Dayton with the intention of settling in Columbia and Gardfield counties. On Wednesday night's train about 60 more came with the intention of taking up government lands in that section. Columbia and Gardfield counties are receiving a very heavy immigration for this season of the year. We are certain these strangers will find Columbia and Gardfield counties far better than the land from whence they came—the middle states. The increasing freight and passenger travel on the San Francisco steamship line is taxing the four now employed to their utmost. So great is the pressure upon the carrying capacity that it is likely another steamship will be required by the trade. Meanwhile the O. R. & N. company are contemplating a change, by which the steamers shall make the round trip in twelve days. They will make the time between the sailing days only three days at each port instead of three and four days, as it now is. Several packages of flour were shipped last week by J. Oppenheimer, of Fort Colville, W. T., to Henry Villard and the officers of several scientific institutions in the east. The flour, it is claimed, is the finest made, and is sent as a specimen of what the Colville country can produce. This region is north of the Northern Pacific railroad and is described as a fertile valley, settled a half century ago by the Franklin bay company. The shipment of flour so far east is rather cold, to say the least, and why it was sent is a question as yet unanswered. Reports from nearly every precinct in Puyallup valley indicate a large increase in the hop average over last year. Patrick Mally, a railroad boss, has died at Jacksonville from hemorrhage. He is said to have laid the first rail in America. A party from Montana is buying large numbers of sheep in Jackson county. Jas. L. Ralk, a Jackson county pioneer, died recently at Willow Springs. A four-year old daughter of Louis Land was drowned in Lost river two weeks ago. W. F. Courtney has purchased fourteen yoke of cattle at Roseburg for shipment to Seattle. F. S. Loughry has started a nursery at Sewell, Clatsop county. Yumbill county has three men whose combined weight is 938 pounds. Hughes, Barnard and Dagget will soon construct a saw mill at the mouth of the Nehalem. Charles Stora of Empire City has become insane through paralysis and has been committed to the asylum. One of the Doane boys on Saue's island, by an accidental shot, had a hand lacerated and amputation is necessary. A Russian Finn named Gustav Mars died at Mansfield last week. He would not ask medical assistance until too late. The Coon bay wagon road is reported to be in good condition except at Cape Horn, where it is soon to be changed to a lower grade. Carlton has shipped to Portland in the past six months 486 cords oak wood. P. C. Thompson is cutting 400 cords for shipment next fall. **Statements:** The engineers have completed the survey for a switch from Salem to the present city and county road. We understand that the railroad company will furnish the rails, the state and Goldsmith & Co. will build the road and furnish the ties, and the county and city will furnish about \$15,000 in the way of a road bed that is already made along the public road. On Monday last week at Jewell Mr. W. J. Daws's youngest child, while playing around a place where the folks had been burning some rubbish, fell into the hot embers and burned his hands and arms nearly to the elbows, but it was soon quieted and did not appear to be suffering much, and on Tuesday was walking around, and about 5 o'clock in the evening it very suddenly went into convulsions, which lasted about two hours, when it died. Horse buyers are flocking into the Yakima country. An Episcopal hospital is contemplated at Seattle. James Hill, of Walla Walla, has been committed to the insane asylum. Snow has almost disappeared in East Kittitas valley and stock have fared well. A son of James Hopwood, of Asotin had an arm broken by falling off a wagon. Freighters are busy hauling goods from Dayton and New York to Pomeroy. A fat express line is to be run between Yakima and The Dalles this spring and summer. James Gaines, of Colfax, has had both feet amputated, they having been frozen during the winter. 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T., was killed on Wednesday last week by a log falling on him from a wagon. **Missionary:** Quite a few ripples of quartz excitement have rolled over Missoula during the past week. Last Saturday a man brought down from Wallace district a specimen of quartz from the St. Lawrence lode, and some one broke off a piece from one corner, saying he thought it would assay \$300. It turned out to be very rich in gold, the assays showing something over \$75 in gold, and \$219 in silver. Several people were wild, until the whole piece was assayed and a much smaller result given out. It was somewhat of an surprise party to the owners of this ledge to discover that a Wallace district mine is carrying as much gold as silver; but such is the fact. This mine has a shaft 75 feet deep, which touches but one wall. An assay made on Thursday of two feet on the cross-cut at this depth, showed 82 ounces in gold and 88 ounces in silver, or an average of \$150 per ton, which is good enough for anybody. The Walls Walla Democrat says: It is the intention of the trustees of St. Paul's school to add a kindergarten department to the school as soon as the new building is completed in the fall. Rev. Dr. Lathrop is in correspondence with a lady of experience in this line of teaching, with the object of securing her services in this new department. The Walls Walla Statesman says: From Mr. Charles Painter, who has just arrived in town from Bureka Falls, we are delighted to hear that crops prospects were looked better in that progressing locality. He says that wheat never looked better since the first settler planted his stakes there. The young wheat is strong, healthy and regular, and every grain sowed last fall has taken root. The *Mail* says: The following is a list of the pioneers of Whatcom county, Washington Territory, whose residence dates back to the memorable year, 1828: Henry Bender, Edward Eldridge, William Uther, David E. Tuck, William Gates, John H. Plaster, Thomas Wyman, F. F. Lane, M. T. Tawes, Enoch Compton, H. H. March, H. C. Barkhousen, Shade Wooten, H. P. O'Bryan, George Neville, John H. Farvel, Michael Sullivan, Thomas P. Hastie, Daniel J. Harris, John A. Tennant, George Slater, Solomon Allen, James H. Taylor, H. A. Judsen, William Munka, James Kavanagh, Allen C. Kittle, James F. Mathews, D. M. Whitehill, John Straightloof, Samuel Callahan, J. L. Maddox, Franklin Buck. Michael Henry had an arm broken by falling into the cistern at Alinworth bridge. The Walls Walla and Pendleton branch to Blue Mountain is open for freight trains. Rev. J. N. Crawford has arrived at Walls Walla from California and has accepted the pastorage of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Walls Walla has a local Wiggins by the name of (Ruff). He predicts a great rain storm between the 15th and 22nd of March, which will cause the entire country to be flooded. The breakup of ice at Alinworth bridge caused several minor accidents. C. W. Young and party were in a very boat and

escaped being carried down river by jumping on a barge as their boat passed.

John Siocura, a Spokane Indian, pretended to die last week, but after resting two days in his coffin, he "came to life," and claimed that during the absence of his spirit from the body, it visited heaven, but was sent back by the Great Spirit. He is daily preaching to an immense concourse of Indians, and among other things, stated that the Great Spirit told him Wiggins' storm was a false prediction, and that his wretched brethren must not be afraid. He evidently purposes taking advantage of Wiggins' mistake to make himself famous.

Donald Mackay, of Seattle, has just completed plans for the contemplated Catholic cathedral at Vancouver. The building is to be 57 feet wide, with transeps eight feet high on either side. The entire length of the edifice is to be 120 feet and 6 inches, with walls 30 feet high from the floor. The distance from the floor to the apex of the cutting will be 50 feet. There will be two side galleries and a front gallery with organ loft. The cathedral will be surmounted with a steeple which will extend into the air 100 feet from the ground. The plans have been forwarded to Vancouver.—Ex.

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