

The Corvallis Gazette.

VOL. XXII.

CORVALLIS, OREGON, MAY 8, 1885.

NO. 19.

Published every Friday Morning
BY GAZETTE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
(Payable in Advance.)

For Year, \$2.50
Six Months, 1.50
Three Months, 1.00
Single Copies, 10c
Per Year (when not paid in advance) 3.00

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TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

GENERAL NEWS.

THE LEASE OF THE O. R. & N.

NEW YORK, May 3.—The lease of the Oregon Railway and Navigation by the Union and the Northern Pacific has been the principal topic of discussion in railroad circles the last week. With both the Union and Northern Pacific using the Oregon Railway and Navigation line to Portland, and the steamer line to San Francisco, and the Atchinson road building through to San Diego, the Central Pacific will have both northern and southern lines to contend against, with power on their side to enforce a fair division of traffic, or, in the event of refusal, to demoralize rates so that all profit in the business will be gone.

DESTRUCTIVE HAIL STORM.

PETERSBURG, Va., May 3.—A hail storm which passed over this section Friday afternoon prevailed in many other localities, and extended into North Carolina. All the growing cotton, corn and vegetables were destroyed and farmers will be compelled to plant again. Hail fell to the depth of twelve inches and a whirlwind prevailed the center of the storm, blowing down barns, fences and sheds. In some places in Surrey county, this state, hail fell to the depth of eighteen inches, and in some spots drifted to the depth of four feet.

GENERAL GRANT'S CONDITION.

NEW YORK, May 3.—Doctors Douglas, Shady and Sands met in consultation at the house of General Grant this afternoon. As Doctors Shady and Douglas were leaving the house they were questioned, and said that Saturday night was one of the best with the general since the recovery began. The general slept well all night. The cancerous lump at the base of the tongue at present was not progressing. Ulcerated portions of the throat, though not by any means treated, were clean, and the general's physical condition is improved. The granular swelling that had increased on Saturday afternoon had almost disappeared by Sunday, by reason of rest. When pressed to say if the cancerous lump had improved, the doctors declined to say further than the above.

PANAMA CANAL.

NEW YORK, May 4.—The Times concludes, from reports of our naval officers, of which it presents a summary affording the latest and most complete presentation of the condition and prospects of the Panama canal that it cannot be completed in less than five years, nor at a less cost than \$350,000,000; also that if its net receipts when completed should be as high as \$13,000,000 annually, fixed charges would swallow up the entire amount. It is doubtful, in point of fact, if the interest on its obligations could be met, to say nothing of dividends on its stocks. On its ability to raise money when its present resources are exhausted, as they are likely to be in about a year, depends absolutely the ability of the company to go on. If it goes into financial straits, what will be the consequences? Too much will have been done and too much expended to admit of the scheme being rapidly abandoned. Will not the interposition of the French government be then invoked, and political complications, so often prophesied, come in.

CUTS IN PASSENGER RATES.

NEW YORK, May 4.—The Tribune says: The war on transcontinental passenger traffic is slowly but surely increasing in bitterness. Rates have been cut not only from here to San Francisco but to Portland, Oregon. The old tariff from New York to San Francisco was \$70.50, but gradual reductions by lines engaged in the conflict have reduced it to \$60. This was the rate at the beginning of the week, but it was cut to \$45. Frank & Co.'s Astor house office reduced the rate to Portland yesterday to \$44. The rate to San Francisco was cut down to \$43, and tickets are sold here over all trunk lines except the Pennsylvania road. It is thought that fares will suffer another decline this week. Rates to western points this side of the Mississippi are still ruling at about the figures which have prevailed for some time.

LARGE DESTRUCTION OF LIFE.

BROOKLYN, May 5.—Shortly after three o'clock this morning there was a crash at 55 Atlantic avenue this city, and people on looking up from the street saw that the roof of the building had fallen and that a portion of the walls had fallen. They could hear the screams of people injured, and it seemed but a moment when a volume of smoke rolled up, showing that the building had taken fire. Hundreds of people, men, women and girls, were at work at various branches of business carried on in the building, which covers considerable ground, having wings and which extended through from Atlantic to State street. The excitement in the neighborhood became very great and in a short time the wives of men who were known to be working in the building, and parents of girls who were employed, blockaded the streets. The building was occupied by twenty small manufactories, and there were about 500 men and women employed therein. It was a five-story, erected twenty-seven years ago, the woodwork burning like tinder. When the firemen arrived they found many young women at the windows screaming wildly for help, their retreat being cut off, and the firemen quickly ran up ladders, but the girls were hemed in, and many fell back into the flames before help could reach them. The cause of the fire was the overturning of the boilers in a soap factory on the second floor. Ten or twelve have been taken out severely injured. Chief Levens said he thought there were at least twenty-five people in the ruins may be more. The loss is estimated at \$300,000.

ARRESTED.

NEW YORK, May 5.—To-night Detective Daly arrested Frank W. Miller, a house mover, on complaint of Coroner Manninger, for criminal carelessness in improper putting girders and posts in the building at 55 Atlantic avenue, thereby causing the walls to fall, thus causing many deaths.

FOREIGN.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

LONDON, May 3.—The cabinet council on Saturday had under consideration a dispatch received from Sir Edward Thornton British minister to Russia, stated that M. Degiers, Russian minister of foreign affairs, had asked for time in which to discuss and interpret the agreement of March 17 before deciding whether arbitration was required to settle the pending difficulties. As a result of the cabinet discussion, Earl Granville intimated his willingness to defer the laying of the dispute before a third power for settlement, provided M. Degiers admitted the principle of arbitration. A further communication from Sir Edward Thornton was received at the foreign office to-night. It is reported that the English minister states in this dispatch that Russia accepts the principle of arbitration. The czarina, whose influence is nearly absolute over the czar, is actively assisting in peace negotiations. Sunday editions of the London newspapers confirm the report that a secret treaty has been made between England and Turkey, according to the terms of which England will be allowed to send men-of-war through the Dardanelles in case of war.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT ORGAN.

LONDON, May 4.—The News, government organ, in a leading editorial, says: "The prospects for peace have been much cleared up and more amply confirmed within the last forty-eight hours. A Russian dispatch, conciliatory in tone and substance, was sent to the government by telegraph, after the czar had conferred with his ministers, and a courier with the official written reply to Earl Granville is now on the way to London." The News warns its readers, however, against a hasty conclusion that peace is assured.

THE "TIMES" FOR WAR.

The Times urges that the advance upon Herat by the Russians should constitute a distinct *casus belli*, without further debate or discussion.

FROM MOSCOW.

MOSCOW, May 3.—The Gazette says it has reason to believe that an honest expedient has been found, by which both sides can settle the Russo-English dispute.

DISGUSTED WITH GLADSTONE.

LONDON, May 5.—It is rumored on the London stock exchange that Earl Dufferin has resigned the office of viceroy of India. The Globe of to-day says the so-called adjustment of the Anglo-Russian dispute is a poor shift, which amounts practically to nothing more than a truce for advertising collision, which will result in nothing but a transfer of the difficulty from Gladstone's shoulders to those of his successor.

NOTES FROM LONDON.

LONDON, May 6.—Gladstone at the request of the conservatives, has consented to take the next stage of the vote of credit Monday, instead of Thursday. The conservatives hope that in the meantime further light may be thrown on the Afghan question. The latest official intelligence is that two British gunboats will be stationed at Port Hamilton for the purpose of watching British interests and to anticipate any attempt for foreign powers to occupy the island.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

NEW YORK, May 4.—The Times London special says: "I do not in the least believe there will be peace, or that the ministry has actually shown the white feather in seeking for it. The ministry have had no sense of perception in planning their spectacular effect. They went into the Russian imbroglio with undue fierceness and clamor at the start, out of a weak desire to divert attention from the Sudan diagrae, and they have been handicapped by this event in their subsequent genuine efforts to make England's cause entirely just and put all the blame of aggression on Russia. The task of doing this, therefore, being doubly difficult, has involved much which appeared to be superfluous, but it has at last been accomplished. Yet even if the proposals are accepted, the debate will only be over the shells of the dispute. Russia has the oyster, and she assuredly will keep it. Out of that situation how can peace be restored? English public opinion will not brook Russian soldiers in sight of Herat. The Russian bureaucracy and aristocracy, which stands for public opinion. There can be ultimately no logical outcome but war, which diplomacy may postpone but cannot prevent. The controlling powers of Russia are primed for fight. They are excited and eager for the fray, and the vast machinery of the army has been set in motion with a cry for rich Asiatic loot and the occupation of Constantinople, and no Alexander, were he a hundred-fold wiser and braver than the present czar, could arrest its movement. Russian officers may not believe in victory, but they certainly believe in the profit to themselves which war would bring. It is a significant fact that in the council of state, which convened at St. Petersburg to-day, the ultra war party was distinctly in control."

Another cable special declares that France is for Russia, and will be with Russia if circumstances should bring what seems a reasonable safe chance for the venture. De Freycinet will seize Egypt the first day after the Anglo-Russian war, about which he feels certain that no Berlin-Vienna-Rome combination will interfere, and the English understand this perfectly; but they bow no trouble on this score, for Italian and Hungarian sympathy grows daily more marked. Faith is growing, too, that Roumania, Serbia and Greece are all hostile to Russia in the present crisis, being equally opposed to the aspirations of Bulgaria and Roumelia, which Russian agents are fostering. It is believed, also, that Turkey is all right, or will become so when the subsidy has been made big enough.

The Sun's London special says: The improved prospect of peace has emboldened the radical wing of the liberal party, and they are now determined to oppose the \$55,000,000 war credit when the house goes into committee of supply on final passage. The bill will be opened by Henry Labouchere, radical member, who is such an ardent lover of peace that he is ready to fight for it any time.

ORDERED HOME.

LONDON, May 5.—In the house of commons this afternoon Gladstone, in answer to questions, stated that Sir Peter Lunsden, the British Afghan boundary commissioner and Col. Stewart had been ordered to come home immediately.

ROBER SEIZES THREE STEAMERS.

PANAMA, May 5.—It has become known here that the robber Preston, who burned Colon, having made his escape, has since then seized three steamers at Porto, with the help of which it is feared he may make trouble unless the United States naval force shall capture him and his vessels.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—It is given out to-day that about all the planks at the disposal of the state department have either been filled or promised; also that the next changes to be made belonged to the treasury. It is said that the internal revenue service is to have a pretty thorough shaking up. The present incumbents are to give way to new men, and then the customs service will be taken in hand. The necessity of changes in the interior department has also received attention, and it is expected that not a few changes will soon be made in the Indian land bureaus. "I have made no appointments of Indian agents as yet," remarked Indians Commissioner Atkins to-day. The Indian office is overrun with routine work, and appointments have been delayed. Applicants for internal revenue collectorships can take courage.

OFFICIALS ASKED TO RESIGN.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—There is a great stampede among republican postmasters all over the country and resignations are pouring in at the rate of 100 daily. There are over 1000 postoffices yet unfilled, and in other departments there are 1200 vacant offices of various kinds. While some states furnish readily half a dozen applicants for every office in the gift of the government, there are actual vacancies in other states and nobody asking for them. "On the whole," said an appointment clerk, "republican officeholders submit like little lambs when we telegraph to their resignations. Only rarely do we find kickers like Revenue Collector Craig of Virginia or Miss Penzance Agent Sweet of Chicago."

PACIFIC COAST.

THE ALASKA EXPEDITION SAILS.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3.—Lieutenant G. M. Stoney, commanding the Alaska exploring expedition, sailed to-day on the schooner Viking for the purpose of further exploring the Putnam river, recently discovered by him. The expedition will proceed to Stotham islet, in the Viking, and from there explore the Putnam river in a steam launch, built here for that purpose. Every possible aid known to science suitable to exploration and observation has been secured for the survey, and important discoveries are expected to be made.

VICTORIA TROUBLES.

VICTORIA, May 4.—A large public meeting to consider the Chinese question was held last night. Strong speeches in denunciation of the race were made, and resolutions denouncing the dominion government and the Chinese commission were passed. One of the resolutions is as follows: "That the people of British Columbia have shown themselves patient and long-enduring under grievous wrongs; that they have repeatedly petitioned the dominion government for redress; that they have held numerous public meetings to make known their wants and wishes; that the city council have passed by-laws relating to the Chinese which the courts have set aside; that the legislature of British Columbia has enacted laws on the same subject which the governor-general, acting on the advice of the dominion ministry, has vetoed; that every constitutional means has been resorted to and exhausted to obtain justice, without effect or beneficial result, on account of the ill advised and misinformed partiality of the dominion authorities in favor of the Chinese; and that in consequence the people should find themselves compelled to take the law into their own hands as a last resort and abate by forcible means a public nuisance, as they undoubtedly have the right to do, then the dominion government and the judges of the supreme court should and must be held answerable for any rioting or even bloodshed which might unfortunately accompany a general uprising of the white laboring classes in vindication of their just rights against their natural enemy, the Chinese."

The defenses of Victoria continue to be put in good order.

A meeting of women is called for Wednesday to form an association to provide nurses for soldiers in case of war. The general feeling is that England can scarcely avoid war with honor.

EARTHQUAKE AT SPRAGUE.

SPRAGUE, May 4.—We experienced quite a shock of earthquake about 12 o'clock last night, and another at 1:15 this morning, in this city. It appeared to travel northward as it was yet more visibly felt in Harrington; some twenty-two miles north of here. No casualties.

POLITICAL CLUB.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 4.—A meeting of prominent democrats was held in one of the parlors of the Palace hotel Saturday evening to form a club after the style of the Manhattan club of New York. The club is to be the nucleus of a powerful social and political organization, but will be extremely select, as the initiation fee will be \$100, and dues correspondingly large.

INDIAN TROUBLE APPREHENDED.

LEWISTON, May 4.—A citizens' meeting is called for Friday to obtain an expression of the sentiment in regard to the return of the Nez Percés from Indian territory. Delegates from Idaho county, the battlefield of the Nez Percé war, are expected to attend. Conservative citizens apprehend trouble with the Indians if they return, unless accompanied by a strong military force. The nearest garrison is 100 miles distant, or five days march, if trouble occurs.

THE MORSON DELEGATION.

SALT LAKE, May 4.—The delegation to President Cleveland started to Washington this morning. It is also stated they will petition for the amnesty or pardon of President Angus M. Cannon, just convicted of unlawful cohabitation. The committee consists of Apostle J. W. Taylor, Elders John Q. Cannon and John T. Cain. The latter is also delegate to congress.

DEATH OF GENERAL McDOWELL.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5.—Major General Irwin McDowell died last night just as the clock struck 12. His wife, son and daughter surrounded his bedside as he passed away. He was unconscious for many hours before his pulse ceased to beat. The death was due to pyloric disease of the stomach. He has been in a critical condition during the past two weeks on account of poor health and failing strength. He was placed on the retired list October 15, 1882, and has since lived a quiet life with his family at his residence in this city.

THE FUNERAL.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5.—In accordance with the wishes of General McDowell's family there will be no military parade in connection with the funeral services to-morrow. He will be buried in the national cemetery at the Presidio. While the procession is passing through the Presidio grounds minute guns will be fired from the battery at Fort Winfield Scott, and the flags at all military stations will be at half-mast.

CANADIAN WAR.

SASKATCHEWAN LANDING, via Swift Current, N. W. T., May 5.—A mail courier has just arrived from Battleford with the following dispatches, dated May 3rd: A flying column of 300 men from Battleford had an engagement with Poundmaker's forces of 600 Indians at his reserve, lasting from 5 A. M. to noon yesterday. The troops lost eight killed and twelve wounded. The Indians loss is estimated at fifty. The Ottor covered, including the engagement, seventy miles, fought the battle and returned inside of thirty hours. The men behaved magnificently.

—A T—

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