

# The Corvallis Gazette.

VOL. XXII.

CORVALLIS, OREGON, NOVEMBER 27, 1885.

NO. 48.

Published every Friday Morning  
BY GAZETTE PUBLISHING HOUSE.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
(Payable in Advance.)  
Per Year.....\$2.50  
Six Months.....1.50  
Three Months.....1.00  
Single Copies.....10c  
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All notices and advertisements intended for publication should be handed in by noon on Wednesday. Rates of advertising made known on application.

**TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES,**  
Of the past week condensed.

**WASHINGTON NEWS.**

The number of grain distilleries registered during the year was 1195, of which only 918 were operated.

The report of the tobacco industry for the last fiscal year shows gratifying results. Not only has there been a small increase in the amount of taxes collected, but there has been a marked increase of manufactured products, and an unusually large increase of the quantity of these products exported to foreign countries.

The first auditor of the treasury has disallowed two months pay of the governor of Alaska, on the ground that his pay did not commence until he entered upon the actual discharge of his duties. The two months for which pay has been disallowed were occupied in going to Alaska.

The president's message has been substantially completed in its most important parts. One question on which he is likely to disagree with the democratic majority in the house is the proposed suspension of silver coinage and equalization of the silver with the gold dollar. It is known that he adheres to the policy of his letter addressed to Bland, Warner and Reagan, on the 27 of February, 1885, and is prepared to reinforce the arguments then used by the experience of the treasury during the last six months.

Total expenses for the service during the past year were about 3.9 of the amount collected. Six hundred and twenty-four violations of the internal revenue laws have been reported by revenue agents during the year and 234 persons have been arrested on their information. Property to the amount of \$171,052 has been reported for seizure and \$2,969 for assessments for unpaid taxes and penalties. The commissioner recommends an increase in the number of revenue agents.

A gentleman high in the diplomatic service of a foreign government, in speaking of the Chinese difficulties which have occurred in the western states and territories, said that when the first attack was made upon the Chinese world was sent by the Chinese minister to Col. Bee, who represented the Chinese six companies at San Francisco, to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding the case and submit a report covering the whole ground. Col. Bee did so and sent on his report which was sent by the Chinese minister at Washington to Marquis Tseng, who is now in London, but who will shortly return to China, to assume a position in the imperial council, which corresponds to our cabinet. It is said that soon after his return a demand will be made upon the United States by the Chinese government for reparation and indemnity for all suffering and injury to which Chinese have been subjected, as a result of various outbreaks against them. The question to be determined is whether this government has been guilty of any violations of the provisions of the Burlingame treaty.

Commissioner Sparks has recently made a ruling which is probably destined to have an influence upon the course of transactions in public lands. He has decided, in substance, that commutation of a homestead is in effect and law the turning of the entry into a pre-emption, and as such illegal, when claimant has previously had the benefit of the pre-emption law. Since the passage of the homestead law it has become almost a universal practice for settlers to secure claims under both that and the pre-emption law in addition to which they have usually taken the benefit of the timber culture law, thus aggregating, under the three laws, a maximum estate of 480 to each settler. It has been customary to take up a pre-emption and "tree claim" at once, and after the shortest necessary interval to mortgage the former for enough to pay the government price of it, when, having secured title, the settler was at liberty to move away and take the benefit of the homestead law. The ruling of the commissioner is calculated to do away with this practice. It leaves the settler still a right to either a homestead or pre-emption in addition to his "tree-claim" and, as far as the ruling itself goes, it leaves him a right to secure a pre-emption in the usual way, and then secure a homestead by living upon the land five years; but the latter right General Sparks does not concede. The ruling prohibiting commutation of homestead claims by persons who have previously been preemptors, will still, he believes, have an important result in preventing, to a considerable extent, speculations in claims. The obligation to live five years upon a claim is a test of good faith to which only actual farmers who desire land for their own cultivation will care to submit.

**GENERAL NEWS.**

The United States grand jury at Lewiston, Idaho, has indicted Hibbs for forgery. Schooners just arrived at San Francisco from Puget Sound report very rough weather at sea, and a number of vessels were partially disabled.

S. C. Blake, a stationer of San Francisco, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor and jumping from his room to the sidewalk. Orders were received by the Northern Pacific last Friday, to complete the Cascade branch with all possible despatch, and to let contracts for tunnels at once.

Miss Kate Field delivered a lecture on Mormonism at Chickering hall, New York, to a large audience Saturday evening. The lecture is the outcome of Miss Field's recent sojourn of a year in Utah.

Little or no attention has been paid by cattlemen who have enclosed portions of the public domain, to the recent message of the president, commanding the removal of fences. Criminal and civil proceedings will probably be instituted against the offenders.

The Austrian minister to the United States has been retired by his government. This leaves the mission vacant, and the Austrian government has signified that it will remain so until the United States sees fit to appoint a minister to succeed Kelley, whom they rejected.

Schaeffer defeated Slosson in the sixth game of the Chicago billiard tournament, after an exciting contest. The score stood: Schaeffer 600, Slosson 492. This made a triple tie between Schaeffer, Slosson and Vittaux, which will have to be decided by another series of games.

Mrs. Isabella Francan has instated suit against the city of San Francisco to have defendant declared trustee for her of a tract of land included between Franklin, Lyon and Union streets, and the water front, which comprises 100 squares. She claims that the tract mentioned was granted to her father, Gabriel Castor, by the alcalde of the oil pueblo of Yerba Buena, in 1836.

A New York dispatch of the 23rd inst. says: Fish Commissioner Blackford was found this morning, unpacking a box of steel-head salmon, which had just arrived from Oregon. The fish were plump and hard, and looked as fresh as if just taken from the water.

"We are receiving a box of steel-heads from Oregon daily, each box containing 175 pounds of fish, and we must say they arrive in splendid condition, probably because the ice is renewed four times enroute. They sell for twenty cents per pound landed here."

**FOREIGN NEWS.**

The French government, it is stated, has decided to terminate its Madagascar expedition.

A terrible cyclone swept over the Philippine islands Friday. Eight thousand buildings, including numerous churches and school houses, were destroyed, and twenty-two persons were killed.

The British steamship Iberian, from Boston November 10th, for Liverpool, is ashore in Dunmanus bay, and likely to prove a total wreck. Dunmanus bay is an inlet on the southwest coast of Ireland in Cork county.

Sir John McDonald left Ottawa Friday evening for London. His mission is to confer with the imperial authorities respecting a commission to arrange with the United States concerning the fisheries of Canada, and terms upon which the fisheries may be enjoyed by United States fishermen. It is understood that the larger question of reciprocity is included in the subjects which the premier will discuss. He will also confer with the authorities in respect to the transit of British mails to eastern Asia and other points via the Canadian Pacific railway.

Advices from Tzaribod state that Cols. Benitzky and Topalovitch on Friday affected a junction of their forces and made a joint attack upon the Bulgarians at Slivnitza. The latter were driven from their positions, after a desperate fight. At 5 o'clock Friday evening the two armies were still engaged. An ad-de-camp of King Millan was wounded during the fight. Three other Servian officers were killed and six others wounded. A dispatch from Belgrade, dated midnight, says it is believed fighting is still going on by moonlight. The reported capture of Sofia is untrue.

The Servians are continuing their retreat and the main army is now in Servian territory. The troops seem to be demoralized, and since the recapture of Tzaribod by the Bulgarians, they have fallen back without offering any resistance to the victorious Prince Alexander. The Bulgarians have occupied all the positions recently held by the Servians in Bulgaria, and are advancing to the frontier. Servian headquarters are now at Priok. The first class of the land-steam has been summoned for active duty. After completing the marring of his army, King Millan will head the final attack on the Bulgarians.

**Among the Rocks at and about Vineyards.**

One of the leading and most ancient landmarks near Corvallis is the promontory about four miles north of this city and known as the Vineyard Ranch. Its trend, looking from the south, is easterly and westerly. It is high, and slopes somewhat gently to the south. At its foot lays a soil as rich as may be found in the valley, from the disintegration of rock peculiar to this location, and perhaps all that could be desired in the way of soil making. Walking up and on the flanks of this hill and casting the eye from point to point, there is nothing more attractive apparently to be met with, than may be seen on any hilly slope. Only an hogback or a rock exposure here and there. Its somber shade of coloring rather than inviting inspection. But a closer and more critical look at what is around us reveals colors bright and attractive, and then the query, what is it? or what are they? follows at once to the inquisitive observer.

The writer does not presume to unfold the mysteries hidden here, for, after only one day in a field so rich in rocks of ingenious wrath, it cannot be expected; it will however suffice if what shall be written will draw attention, so, that if any benefits are to be derived from this field, the owner thereof and this community may soon be the recipients.

In going to and fro over this field the observer soon comes to the conclusion that where he stands has once, more probably several times, been the seat of boiling, seething, sputtering rock, for on the one hand lay masses of bright red porphyry filled with thread like veins of quartz, near and at a distance can be found black and lilac or lavender grey colored trachytes, and this again is dovetailed with the more somber, heavy and full basalt. The trachytes break with a rough uneven fracture, are dry and harsh to the hand, much like a cinder. Included in this rock are yellowish white crystals much the shape of a peanut. This broken, reveals fine slender threads or filaments of a white or gray; sometimes these rest upon a bright green, red or orange colored cottony bed, occasionally two colors prevail in the same crystal. While the rock has a dry harsh feeling a more critical observation reveals the mass to be as it were composed of a red and white fatty substance in wave lines giving the lavender shade to the rock as before mentioned. Also, as if far further adoration, deep red prisms of iron dot the surface here and there. The rock may be said to be vesicular and amygdaloidal.

Aside from what revelations these igneous rocks may suggest the old conglomerate shale laying beneath, tell of a time near when this disturbance prevailed, but where the vents or chimneys through which so much and varied matter came, and what its thickness upon the water made rocks, or what wealth may be embosomed, all this is yet to be determined. High upon the sides of the mountain in several places are some good springs, these have opened out shallow waterways down to the creeks below. In these waterways lay rocks generally basalt, sometimes a little ironstone, but, all of the rock above the water line is covered with a white salt efflorescence, suggesting a mineral beneath from which this efflorescence is derived.

Passing from this interesting field to the public road below, and thence to the west, we do not go far before our attention is arrested by what looks like a richly colored clay by the road side, but on a further examination, its weight, hardness and color suggested it as a substance into which decomposed mineral had entered, and not a clay. What was it? Ah, you who reside thereabouts tell us, for when we passed, we had neither the time or facilities to look further into the matter, and it may be, perhaps, we shall never see it again. On a mile or so further west we pass the sulphur and salt springs on Soap creek. Passing up a little distance above the mill is a deposit remarkable and worthy of mention. This is a bank of ocherous earth. It stands immediately upon the edge of the creek and forming the south bank. It is about 10 feet high and 20 feet broad as seen. It is divided into beds of about two feet each and upwards, not laying directly horizontal, but fitting together wedge like. The upper layer or bed is of a clear bright red, this rests upon a deeper bed of a lively lemon yellow, then again red and again yellow. Below this rests a thin layer of a few inches of grass green, beneath this is gravel. Through this mass vertically, and in other directions, are veins of a white glassy mineral, somewhat decomposed making a white pasty material. Having lost the small specimen obtained, an examination of them has been impossible. But the colors here suggest the decomposition of other mineral than iron, and at not a remote distance from where this bed reposes.

J. R.

Private but official advices from London state that the British government invites tenders for a fortnightly steamship service from Coal Harbor, B. C. to Hong Kong, calling at Yokohama, for a period not exceeding seven years. This is to be run alternately with steamer lines, via Brindisi and Suez, and is regarded as very important in the event of blockade or other interruption on the Suez canal. It is expected that through mails will go over the Canadian Pacific via Quebec and Montreal.

The N. Y. Tribune has a long article on Postmaster-General Vilas and the foreign mail service, which it summarizes as follows: "Criticism in regard to the foreign mail service have finally elicited an indirect but apparently official reply from Postmaster-General Vilas, the tone of which is defiant, and his statements more positive than correct. He asserts that American companies are monopolies which should not be encouraged. Then he proceeds with the astonishing assertion that the foreign mail service of the country to-day is better than when American steamship companies furnished it. This has raised a direct issue of veracity between Vilas and the business men's committee, which is unfortunate for Postmaster-General Vilas."

**MISCELLANEOUS CARDS.**

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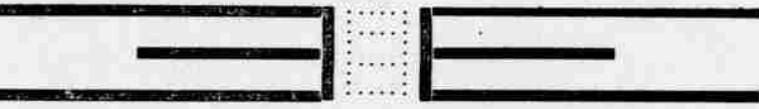
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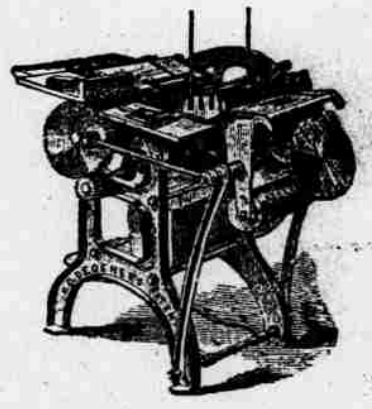
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**NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.**

In the matter of the estate of Elizabeth Coyle, deceased.  
Notice is hereby given that I, W. J. Kelly, executor of the estate of Elizabeth Coyle, deceased, have filed my final account as said executor in the County Court of the state of Oregon for Benton county, and the said Court has fixed Monday, December 7th, 1885, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day as the time for hearing any and all objections to the same and for a final settlement thereof.  
22-45-54  
W. J. KELLY,  
Executor of the estate of Elizabeth Coyle, deceased.

Send for prices and estimates.

—OFFICE IN—

**Fisher's Block,**