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OREGON SENTINEL.

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And is prepared to do all work in his line on short notice and in a workmanlike manner. Vehicles of every description made to order.
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Going Into Mourning.

Communicated.

In all ages from time immemorial, there has been some conventional form of manifesting grief for the dead. The wearing of black was instituted by Rome, during her existence as a Republic It became very popular, gradually replacing all other modes, until at the present time, black is universally worn in all civilized countries. Greece stood at the head of all nations of antiquity, it was more advanced, more civilized, and more humanized, and consequently had the most modest and sensible mode of mourning. The Greek having lost a dear friend or relative, would withdraw into retirement for a time, and then return to every day life in the same costume in which he withdrew. Instead of following this very wise custom of Greece, we have instated Rome. It seems absurd for one who is in sorrow, to carry about a constant reminder under a black signboard. If it were something like poverty, or infirmity, that the public could assist in removing, it would not be so bad. We carry this absurdity even farther than did the ancients; they wore black for a time, then removed it, coming back to their former dress. We wear black to indicate the deepest grief, then purple, virtually saying, "I do not feel quite so badly now." Of all the disgusting revolting sights is a mourning dress in a ball room, and this I have sometimes seen. Widows are sometimes under an engagement to marry a second husband, while wearing mourning for a first. What a travesty. There are those who mourn in spirit and in truth, but they need not by outward signs to proclaim the grief that passes show. Take for example a case where the husband and father dies, after a long illness, when all their means are exhausted, and the mother and daughters worn out with fatigue, and overcome with grief, are obliged to turn their thoughts toward going into mourning, in order to conform to this most useless custom. From carefully prepared statistics, it is estimated that the funerals of America cost more than all objects of philanthropy combined. Why does man summon pride and ostentations to attend him in the hour of his weakness, when the utter nothingness of all things earthly are so palpably impressed. It is related that some Arabs, once on a visit to England, witnessed a fashionable funeral, for the first time. An elaborate eulogy, in which the dead man was portrayed by, not what he was, but what he should have been. Profuse floral decorations, plumed hearse, funeral dirges, and all the trappings of wealthy woe. On being asked how they liked the white mans funeral, the chief replied with a fine touch of sarcasm. "It is all very fine, but you haven't brought the man to life yet." These children of nature and instinct recognized the uselessness of worldly pomp in the face of the great leveller. It would seem as if the refined and intelligent would shrink from such displays of poor mortality as are often seen, where crowds of people many of them strangers, gather around an open coffin and star therein until it seems as if the poor dead face would rebuke them if it could. "When I am dead, I would not have the dull and gaping crowd around me gather. But I would have the few of kindly heart, who when misfortune came, so nobly did their part, these would I have, no more, no less, when I am dead. When I am dead, I would not have the high and storied urn, placed o'er my grave, and then be left alone, but I would have some things I once did love, ere I did leave the joyous world above, placed o'er me. And each succeeding year I'd have my friends renew them, and oft' linger near, with loving thoughts upon the one that's laid below, and talk of times departed long ago, when I am dead." S. L. T.

Willow Springs, April 20th.

WALLA WALLA, April 19.—At 4:30 this morning a large meteor fell northward, with a whirring sound. The explosion was plainly audible to observers here, on the mountains and at Wallula. A bright crimson track, as wide as a hogshead, was visible for an hour afterward. A large dark body was seen in advance of the flame.

Subscribe for the SENTINEL.

Tramp Telegraph Offices.

At last we are to have a telegraph office on every train. Although inventers have been puzzling their brains over the matter for a number of years, it was not believed that they would ever accomplish any satisfactory results, for it seemed a sheer impossibility to send a dispatch from a train moving at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour. The redoubtable Edison, however, has shown that it can be done, and has patented his invention: It is a simple feat after all, the only wonderful thing in connection with it, is that we hadn't all thought how it could be managed, long ago.

The electric current utilized for the purpose of telegraphing from a train is generated by battery on one of the cars and conducted to the roof from which it passes through the air to the ordinary telegraph wires along the track. The distance from the top of the car to the wires is so short that the electric current meets but little resistance in its passage from the car roof to the wires. Messages are sent in the ordinary manner by interruptions of the current with a Morse key. The operator receiving the messages uses telephone sounding plates held over his ears by a rubber band around the head. The usual business over the wires is in no manner interfered with by messages to and from moving trains.

The benefits to be derived from this invention are many, but the greatest of all will be the lessening of danger by railroad travel.

ELPASO, Tex., April 19.—Particulars of a bloody fight between Americans and Mexicans, which occurred at Murphysville on the Southern Pacific railway have just arrived. The town is new and well settled by Americans. Mexicans have been locating there in a considerable number, and have sought to drive out the Americans. A bitter race feeling existed, and on Saturday night about twenty armed Mexicans fired the Cafe Exchange saloon, in which were a number of Americans. The latter, being greatly outnumbered fled, but returned the fire of the Mexicans while running, and killed Jose Perez and fatally wounded two others. News of the raid rapidly spread to Americans living in the town and vicinity, and they united in clearing the surrounding country of Mexicans. No further trouble is anticipated. It is believed that a number of Mexicans besides those referred to were killed and wounded.

The right of way for the surveys for the O. P. R. R. on each side of the river is being negotiated for, and that route which offers the best inducements and the cheapest right of way will be selected. Returns have been received from the paper survey forwarded to Colonel T. Hogue at New York, and it is expected that work will be commenced in a very short time. The surveyors are pushing the line eastward from this city, which together with the fact that the company are receiving new iron, bridge material, etc., may be taken as evidence of a busy season's work on the road this summer.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—The memorial of the Oregon Legislature to the Senate, which asked that a portion of the Siletz reservation be opened to settlement, was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and was sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In turn Indian Agent Wadsworth, of Siletz, returned a vigorous protest. He said the Indians would soon need all the land and valuable improvements. There is a portion of them who want the lands thrown open, but the bureau resorted adversely. The committe will doubtless make a similar report.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—Senator Jones of Florida feels much hurt over the Senate filling his place on the commerce committee by Gibson. He has written and telegraphed asking if the removal is not without precedent. He has been informed he has not been removed, that it is open whenever he returns to occupy it.

Thirty thousand workingmen in Berlin have begun an agitation for improved prices and hours. The wretched pay is driving many women to vice.

The Hawaiian Treaty.

The house committee on ways and means, in summing up the conclusions upon the subject of the abrogation of the Hawaiian treaty, are of the opinion that our trade with the islands has not grown as much as the originators of the treaty expected. The balance is found to be decidedly against us. They say that of the entire trade for the last fiscal year 76 per cent, represented our imports from the islands and 24 per cent our exports to them, while in 1884 relative values were: imports, 67 per cent, and exports 35 per cent. It was claimed for the treaty when it was pending in congress in 1876, that it would greatly stimulate our exports of lumber, feed products and manufactures, but these predictions do not seem to have been fully realized. During the last fiscal year we imported from the Hawaiian islands articles amounting to $8,887,496, of which the value of sugar was $8,207,194; while for the same year we exported to them articles amounting in value to $2,109,507. The balance of this trade we pay in money to planters on the islands, some of whom reside in the United States, some in England and some in Germany. Our aggregate export to the islands reached the highest point in 1883, and has since that time been falling off. Our exports of animals and manufactures of iron and steel reached their highest point in 1882, cotton goods and hemp in 1883, provisions and lumber in 1884 and breadstuffs in 1885. The argument that the treaty would reduce the price of sugar on the Pacific coast has not proved true. At the time of the passage of the treaty sugar was as cheap in San Francisco as in New York; but it has been dearer than ever since, notwithstanding that New York sugar paid duty and San Francisco sugar was admitted free of duty. The majority report of the committee conclude by recommending the adoption of the resolution abrogating the treaty, [illegible] conclusion of the majority, however, and is signed by Breckenridge of Ky. and Brown of Ind.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Hermann of Oregon offered a substitute in the house to-day for the Eads ship railway, which proposes the construction of thirteen miles of ship railway on the Columbia river between The Dalles and Celilo, in Oregon. This resolution instructs the commerce committee to report a bill appropriating $1,300,000, which Major Jones, of the U. S. engineers, estimates to sufficient, whereas to construct a canal estimates would cost $11,000,000. Mr. Hermann in his resolution recites the supposed impractibility of the proposed Tehuantepec ship railway, and claims that while the Columbia work will be a success for the size of the shipping required, and give employment to our own countrymen, in our own nation, and add wealth and transportation facilities to the great Columbia basin, it will also demonstrate to the government the feasibility of the more gigancie isthmus ship railway of Capt. Eads. The resolution causes comment, and is the first counter grain to Eads in the house.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The "World's" Washington correspondent says: A prominent southern democrat said to me the other day: "The leaders of the party must not count positively upon a solid democratic representation in the house from the south." He said that the situation at Washington was so discouraging to the party in the south that it is possible for republicans to carry from twelve to fifteen districts. He said that two districts would be lost in Texas if a number of features of the tariff bill were adhered to. There is a prospect of three being lost in Louisana, one in Mississippi, from two to three in Missouri, two in Tennessee, one in Kentucky, one in North Carolina and one in South Carolina. There is a further prospect of losing two in Virginia. A loss of twenty-three districts would pass the majority over to the republicans.

Grand Master Workmen Powderly, having failed to receive concessions from Jay Gould, has issued an appeal to the Knights of Labor throughout the country for financial aid to continue the great strike. It will no doubt be readily ganted.

Mental Loafing.

It is considered a disgrace to be lazy. He who is too indolent to work for his own living becomes a by-word and reproach. But there is a very common form of laziness which is not always noticed. It is that of the mind. We first become conscious of it in our young days, when we "don't feel like study." We dawdle over the book with our thoughts half asleep, and, as a result, give a fine exhibition of stupidity in the recitation room. It is true that disinclination to study sometimes grows out of fatigue and illness. The liver is responsible for much of it; but in the majority of cases it is pure laziness, as the young people will discover it they will shake themselves up and go resolutely to work.

This sort of indolence in youth is very dangerous, for it becomes a habit, and the mind grows rusty and dull in the very prime of life, when it should be at its best and on the heels of this form of laziness comes another bad habit, that of intellectual loafing. What loafing is, in the common sense, we all know. It is hanging about with no definite aim or purpose, idling away the time without method and proot. Well there is mental loafing as well, and it is known in the dictionary as reverie. It is a dreamy state of the mind, when the thoughts go wool gathering. The fancy sails away into fantastic seas, and revels in unreal things till the wits are fairly benumbed and unfitted for sober work.

The habit, so common to young people, is fatal to mental growth. Many a promising youth is ruined by over-indulgence in it. It wastes time and enfeebles the mental powers. It is really a form of laziness, and it should be sternly corrected at the very outset. The action of the mind should be kept under control. When thoughts begin to wander, it is time to whip them into order. A resolute will, will do it.

Congress has manifested a disposition to vote away money freely, but the Democrats are awakening to the fact that their party will be held responsible for the extravagance, and many of the leading [illegible] call a halt. Many reckless appropriations which have made their way through one branch will, therefore, be headed off in the other. If not they will be ugly issues for the party orators to discuss during the summer canvas. The distribution of money, like the distribution of offices, usually causes more disatisfaction in an orginization than enthusiasm, for it is impossible to convince opposing sections that they have received their full proportion of the aggregate allowances, just as it is impossible to convince disappointed aspirants that their claims were fairly considered.

The "Mail and Express" asserts that on Sunday last a diver of the Merritt Wrecking Company went down and made an examination of the sunken steamer Oregon, and ascertained beyond question that she was sunk by a collision. Ten feet below the main deck, and about twenty feet forward of the bridge, the diver found a hole in the steamer's side. The heavy iron plates crushed in the hole is six feet deep.

GEMS OF THOUGHT.—Our honest convictions may be very wise, but it is the occasion and method of our own utterance of them which best prove our own wisdom. If there is any worthy of object in their utterance, it is the enlightment of others; and this will be best secured in proportion as we have their ear confidence. He who carries his varying heart upon his sleeve, and utters all his mind, commands but small respect, and small is his influence.—Gill.

Mr. Frank C. Baker, of Portland, now president of the Typographical Union of that city, and who is serving out his third term as such, will be placed before the coming republican convention for the office of state printer. Mr. Baker is a native born Oregonian, is a very bright and promising young man, and in every respect, we are informed, well qualified for the position.

A "prominent Democrat" is authority for a statement in the "World's" Washington correspondence to day that the party managers in Pennsylvania are thinking of nominating Mr. Powderly for Governor. He says that the Knights of Labor control 30,000 votes in Pennsylvania, and with that they could more than overcome the Republican majority in that State.

The inquest on the body of Thompson, killed in the East St. Louis riot, was completed to night. The jury finds that the shooting was not justified, and holds the Deputy Sheriffs who participated in the shooting jointly responsible for the deaths occasioned.

The President to-day nominated H. Wagner, to be the Postmaster at San Jose, California.

Railroad Items.

We learn that the order from headquarters to the right of way men, on the railroad south of this place, requires them to clear the way as far north as Fish Rock, as speedily as possible. Fish Rock is a few miles south of Bailey's, and will bring the terminus to within 56 miles of Yreka, which will of course prevent any freight coming by way of Oregon, provided neither road is extended further. Fish Rock is an excellent place for a depot, there being plenty room without taking in the sides, as at Delta. The railroad is being crowded with the energy, and from present indications it gives promise of continuing to the Oregon boundary. However, previous work was suspended before reaching terminus at a very inconvenient point. When the road is completed to Fish Rock, it will make another station to be accepted by the government for freight and passengers can be [illegible] to that point.

"Nol Yea" writes to the Redding "Free Press" that the iron bridge at the sixth crossing is about completed, and that in five weeks more the bridges at 7th and 8th crossings will be completed. The grade to Gibson's is in an advanced state, and will be ready for the iron and ties before the bridges are done. It is rumored that Gibson's will be the end of the Oregon division, and the beginning of a new one. Col Scobie and his forces have evacuated Portuguese Flat, and located at Southern's, to bask in the surf of "Uncle Sim's" legal lore and long stories, for next three months. John Higgins ("Black Jack") the way up track layer, is kept busy tending to the slides between Slate creek and the end of the track. Joe Mett has his hands full of "Pigtails," washouts and slides between Redding and Delta, and Pat Finigan, ye bully section boss, has his dead [illegible] and is always ready at a moment's notice. Peck, not Peck's bad boy is Disision Superintendent, conductor, engineer and brakeman on construction train between Delta and the front. A new time card has gone into effect, which will make the passenger train one hour earlier at Delta in the evening. A swing train will ply between here and Red Bluff, to handle the north bound freight. Saloons are multiplying along the line of the new road. You can wet your whistle at intervals of one-half mile. We may leave the Flat ere long and with what amount of regret we are unable to express. The gentlemanly Burke, the jolly Garber, the calculating Walbridge, and the big schooners of beer McCarthy's—the very thought of all brings a tear to our eye, in anticipation of what must be.—"Journal."

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Although the physicians attending Secretary Manning report to-day that he is holding his own and inferentially improving, it is nevertheless understood confidentially that his case baffles treatment and is really critical. While Mr. Manning may recover sufficient strength to be safely removed from Washington, yet the shock he received was of such a severe character as to preclude all hope of his being able to resume or to bear the burdens of official duty. Even though he should in time be restored to reasonable health it will be necessary to relieve him of all mental and physical pressure and it may be taken for granted that even under the most favorable circumstances he is not likely to re-enter public life.

NEW YORK, April 14.—"Tribune's" Albany special: Assemblyman John L. Platt returned from Buffalo to-day, where he has been at the head of the investigation committee. He said: "While in Buffalo a leading lawyer said to me, 'I have just received a letter in which you may have an interest.' It was from Mrs. Folsom, wife of President Cleveland's law partner. In this letter, which was dated at Genoa, Italy, she said that her daughter, Miss Folsom, would be married to President Cleveland next summer. It is said that Mrs. Folsom and her daughter are poor, and their expenses in Europe are paid by President Cleveland."

THE DALLES, April 19.—James Sanford was found dead at DesChutes station yesterday. In jumping off the down passenger train his foot caught in the step and he was dragged 100 yards. Deceased was building a hotel at Alkali, and was visiting his sister, Mrs. Miller, when he stepped off the train. The above facts are gleaned from the coroner's inquest.