

OREGON FREE PRESS.

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BUTTER AND EGGS.—There is a demand existing here for these articles. A good quantity of the former would command 18 cents per pound, readily; eggs say 20 cts. per dozen. We don't know that merchants would pay these prices, but the people will.

PRICES OF WHEAT.—Yesterday wheat was selling here, with a good demand, at 60 and 65 cents cash per bushel. The Company's store pays 80 cents per bushel in currency or goods. Another concern is offering 80 cts., half cash and half goods. The article does not come in very briskly at these rates. Flour is selling at two dollars and fifty cents per 100 lbs., cash.

ASSESSABLE PROPERTY.—The whole amount of assessable property in this country for 1847, is returned at 126,563 dollars—for '48, at 151,636 dollars. The territorial tax for '47 due from this county amounts to 390 dollars and 41 cents—for the present year, it is 502 dollars and 59 cents.

FROM THE DALLES.—Dr. Saffarons arrived on yesterday from the Dalles, bringing with him a fine young native as captive, which he consigned to the custody of Gen. Palmer, of the Commissary Department. He is tied to a post in the General's yard where he amuses little children and big, with his BEAR like conduct. The Doctor brings no news.

MARINE.—The Honolulu sailed yesterday with a load of provisions and passengers for California. When we stated that this vessel came here in ballast, we were in error. She brought some goods and considerable gold dust. The ANITA and HENRY, from California, are anxiously expected. The ship Parramatta, from England via Islands, with a large cargo of goods consigned to D. McLoughlin, Esq., is daily looked for.

ANOTHER HORSE BOAT.—Messrs. Pugh and Ford, of Champoeg co., design to build a horse-boat to run on the upper Willamette, between this City and Salem. We are informed that Mr. Rector, who is an ingenious and excellent mechanic, has contracted for its construction. Such a craft is very much needed and will undoubtedly do a profitable business.

EXPULSION OF PILOT.—The Governor and Board of Commissioners on Pilots and Pilotage, met on Saturday last to investigate the charges preferred against S. G. Reeve, the Bar Pilot, for taking and secreting goods from the wreck of the Vancouver. The charges were substantiated and the said Reeve was thereupon expelled from his situation as pilot, and his commission, as such, revoked.

We understand that Mr. Thos. Hawks is acting as pilot in the interim, until the Board shall regularly fill the vacancy.

LABORERS AND CALIFORNIA.—It is said that there is a great demand for laborers in California—that they are receiving from eight to ten dollars per day; doubtless, but how much does it cost to live there? What's the price of board? Will there be any ballance left from wages after the board bill is paid? Mighty little, we reckon. Provisions of all kinds were scarce, and in great demand when the Honolulu left. Flour was selling at San Francisco at twenty-five dollars per bar-

rel, and at forty-five dollars when delivered at the mines. The JANET, and other vessels, the former with her cargo but partly discharged, were lying in the harbor of San Francisco, having been deserted by their crews, who had run off to the mines. With a knowledge of the reported state of affairs, it will be extremely difficult to get vessels to go there, and the scarcity of provisions may increase to a famine before circumstances will admit a sufficient supply to be received.

We cannot, therefore, considering all things, perceive any real advantage to the laborer, for the present at least, in getting employment in that country.

THE CALIFORNIA "FEVER."

Since the arrival of the Frigate CONSTANCE, which brought the news of the condition of things in California, and "let the cat out of the bag" in reference to the object of the Schr. Honolulu in coming here so secretly, we have had a perfect "fever" of excitement about the gold harvest of California. The injunction of secrecy having been removed by the timely arrival of the Frigate, the officers of the Honolulu have divulged all that they know and have heard in regard to the gold mines and gold seeking in that country. This has increased the furor, and men with fixed eyes and open mouths are swallowing, with voracious appetites, the wildest fictions—putting their faith in stories that throw "Baron Munchausen" in the shade. In short, the "necromancer" gold has bewitched almost every body lately. Nothing else is talked of—nothing else, apparently, is thought of. "That chap that found the FIVE POUND lump was a lucky fellow, was'nt he?" "Those rascally Mormons, to think that they should have taken away so many wagon loads of the precious stuff before the general discovery—and then only for a moment to conceive that their homeward trail should be literally marked with the "yellow dust" that sifted through the crevices of the wagon beds." Why, it is past all human endurance to stand it. "Hurrah for California!" We're off immediately, if not sooner—just consider our fortune made, provided we don't starve to death in getting it.

There are great times down there, certainly. It is told that shirts and other articles are selling for their weight in gold—we would like to sell our big bake oven in the same way. All this and much more has effected our citizens to such a degree that a great many of them are making preparations to go there almost at any sacrifice. We wish them every success. May all of them make fortunes and return safely to Oregon to invest them. The Honolulu goes out crowded with passengers, and a company are getting ready to go by land, to start in the course of a week or ten days.

We learn that this "El dorado" was discovered in June last—that its existence was not generally known until after two men had realized some thirty thousand dollars each from it. Some say the Mormons were the first discoverers, who were weaned from it by the information that similar mines had been found in the vicinity of their own settlements near the Great Salt Lake. As soon as the information became general, nearly the whole population, says report, rushed to the mines.—Everything was sacrificed for gold—the crops were left unharvested—GOLD BEFORE BREAD—the various branches of labor were left unattended, and business was consequently suspended—GOLD WITHOUT LABOR—the "filthy lucre" rather than the happy fruits of industry. Indeed we think our sister California, with all her treasure, is in an unenviable "fix." Her people, "gold mad," deserting the tried paths of rewarding in-