

Oregon Judiciary.

We notice a communication in the Alta California of June 8th, post marked Oregon City, and signed "Willamette," in which we find an expression to which we are constrained to take exception.

An article recently appeared in the Oregon Spectator concerning the judiciary of this territory, very general in its terms, which was calculated, abroad from here, but not intentionally, to prejudice Judge P. no less than his associates.

The article in the Spectator to which reference is made is in the paper of March 7. We there say: "Tuesday last (5th inst) was the day set for the commencement of the spring term of our courts, but there being no judge in the territory, there was of course no court."

In the very next number of the Spectator we announced Judge Pratt's return to the territory, and that his courts would be held at the proper times and places. And lest any one might misinterpret what we had previously said, as "Willamette" has done, we stated that the failure of the courts in the first district was not in consequence of any dereliction of duty on the part of Judge Pratt.

As it regards Judge Pratt we have on every proper occasion spoken of him in terms of sincere respect, as our columns will show. And if we have kept back any word of complaint which ought to have been uttered, it was because we feared that eulogistic approbating flattery, would be offensive to that innate delicacy of feeling for which Judge Pratt is remarkable.

It has at all times since the organization of the territory, been held to hold his courts at the times and places fixed by law. The public business has at no time suffered on his account. And while he was the first U.S. officer who reached Oregon in 1848 after its organization, it is due to him to say that he has stuck to us, while temptations to leave and go to California for rapidly made fame and fortune were almost irresistible to a man of his attainments and capacity.

And we may further say that an intimation of his intention to resign his office as one of our Judges, which Judge P. recently gave, was received by all with deep and heart-felt regret.

We received a communication some time since which we declined publishing, and we have a request from the author to return it to him. This we decline also, as we have not time to copy such sweet surreptitious. We retain all such for our own security.

Postal Affairs of Oregon.

We have heard latterly more complaint than usual in regard to the delivery of our papers to subscribers. We had supposed that with the establishment of mail routes and post offices regularly conducted we would hear no further complaint. But the reverse seems to be the fact.

I shall be glad to give the list of the post routes at present in operation, temporarily until further orders from the Department, and those on which contractors are now carrying the mails, with such other information as might seem to me necessary.

POST ROUTES.

- From Portland (this being the destination of the present line from San Francisco) to Oregon City, Clackamas county, and Linn City, Washington county, twice each week;
From Oregon City, via Salem, Marion county, and Syracuse, Linn county, to Calapooya, at Spaulding's, Linn county, once each week;
From Portland, via Hillsborough, Washington county, LaFayette, Yam Hill county, and Nesmith's mills, Polk county, to Marysville, once each week;
From Oregon City, via Linn City, to La Fayette, Yam Hill county;
From Syracuse, Linn county, via Albany, Linn county, Marysville, Benton county, Skinner's, Benton county, Pleasant Hill or Bristoe's, Benton county, to Levi Scott's, in Umpqua valley;
From Portland to Ft. Vancouver, twice each week;
From Ft. Vancouver, via Placerville, on Cowlitz, to Nesqually in Lewis county, once in two weeks.

These are the present temporary routes, subject to the orders of the Post Office Department. The routes from Portland to Marysville and from Oregon City to Calapooya being the only ones on which contracts have been yet concluded; but I have continued to send the mails on the two lines from Portland to Oregon City, and Ft. Vancouver twice each week by boats regularly plying to and from these places, and request that all post masters shall forward mails, when it can be done on reasonable terms, on any of the routes necessary, until contracts can be had for their regular transportation—taking care to have it done by sworn carriers according to law.

The incompleteness of the present arrangements are owing to the want of proceeds of the offices, and probable alterations which might be made by the Department, in absence of a more speedy communication with it than those former had; which I hope will be satisfactorily arranged at the session of Congress now nearly at a close.

Your obt. serv't, D. H. LOWNSDALE, Postal Ag't, &c."

We send our paper to some places to which there is no mail carried, and in these cases we send them to the nearest post office in that direction, and request that the post masters in such cases send them on by the best opportunities. Of this class are several packages for the upper part of the valley, and the Cowlitz and Puget's Sound packages.

We have done and still intend to do the best we can, and with the kind aid of those having charge of the post offices the reading community may be accommodated.

To the Public.

We would say, for the information of those concerned, that goods intended to be carried over the portage on the Linn City road, should be landed above the upper ferry landing, as the cost of carriage from the lower ferry landing is necessarily much greater. Teams are always in readiness in Linn City to convey merchandise over this road.

Fourth of July Celebrations.

The celebration of our great national anniversary passed off in this city most pleasantly. A more delightful season of intellectual and social enjoyment, we venture to say, is rarely experienced. Order, harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout the day, and no accident occurred to mar the pleasure of the occasion.

At 8 o'clock, A. M. the Sabbath Schools of the city assembled in the Baptist church, and formed into procession under appropriate banners. They then marched to the Methodist Episcopal Church, where, in the presence of a crowded assembly, Elder Ezra Fisher delivered an able and interesting discourse. The subject was the necessity of educating our youth in the spirit and genius of our own institutions, and the discussion of it indicated profound and serious thought.

The exercises connected with the general celebration, commenced immediately after the adjournment of the Sabbath school exercises; and were conducted under the management of Gen. A. L. Lovejoy, as marshal, and Hon. W. W. Buck, as president of the day. The procession was formed at the City Hotel, and marched to the Methodist Episcopal Church. After prayer and reading the Declaration, the Hon. K. Pritchett, acting governor of the territory, delivered an interesting oration.

The procession was then conducted to the dining saloon, prepared for the occasion, where Messrs. Evans and Hinshaw, in conjunction with the committee of arrangements, had served up a rich and sumptuous dinner. We were pleased to observe that the tables were well filled, and that many of the most influential individuals of the Territory were present on this occasion.

The following toasts are selected from the many which were warmly received by all present.

The memory of Washington and of La Fayette, Independence day and our country, were all duly remembered. Then were offered the following REGULAR TOASTS:

Oregon—Her sons have shown to the world the brightest example of self government; may her garb of pupillage be speedily exchanged for that of state sovereignty.

North and the South, the East and the West—Though at opposite points, may they always meet at the centre.

Political and Religious Liberty—Now, and forever.

The Daughters of Oregon—May they ever remain as now, like her own fertile prairies, rich in beauty and worth.

The Sons of Oregon—May they be like the fir trees of her forests; high in their glory, straight in their integrity, and firm in their attachment to the soil.

VOLUNTEER TOASTS.

By F. W. Pettygrove: Our revolutionary struggle—it won a home for freedom in the world, and the echoes of its warfare still rumble about the rotten monarchies of Europe.

By Dr. John McLaughlin: Oregon, from the fertility of its soil, the salubrity and mildness of its climate; the finest place in North America for the residence of civilized men.

By W. W. Buck: Oregon City, the nucleus of the territory.

By Wm. K. Kilborn: Hon. O. C. Pratt—sole remnant of the Oregon Judiciary, which the all-powerful influence of gold cannot tempt to desert his post.

To this Judge Pratt responded in an appropriate address, which was well received and warmly applauded; and he offered the following toast, which embodies the sentiments of his address:

Oregon and her destiny: The one, here, before a leading subject in concerning a lasting peace with our mother country, and may the happy lot of the latter be to

establish, upon a firm basis, through the discussions of territorial and slavery questions, a proper understanding of State Rights and a perpetual union of the United States.

Steamer Columbia—New Firm.

This new steamer, just completed by an enterprising company of gentlemen at Astoria, arrived in this city on Saturday last. Various were the demonstrations of the satisfaction of our citizens on this new and interesting arrival. This is the first steam vessel that has appeared in this place, and as it is the same harbinger of better times, it was hailed with joy by every citizen. The vessel itself is a light draught steamer, and entirely capable of accommodating the traveling and commercial public in a new and superior style.

On Monday last the Columbia made a trip to Portland for the purpose of giving our citizens an opportunity of witnessing her capabilities. We are not much that, through want of information on the subject, there did not more of our citizens avail themselves of the opportunity for a pleasant excursion. There were, however, some thirty-eight persons on board and the day passed pleasantly, and the party returned in the evening highly gratified with their excursion.

We are compelled to defer to our next a notice of other matters connected with the steamer and our visit to Portland.

Astoria Anchorage.

We have had our attention called to a paragraph in the Pacific News, of San Francisco, which represents the anchorage at Astoria as extremely limited and dangerous. It remarks that it is not capable of accommodating more than twenty or fifteen vessels, and that the holdings are not good even at that. And then it is added that this is the reason why so many vessels have been wrecked there.

But does Baker's Bay need such a defence? We had supposed that its reputation as a safe and convenient anchorage was sufficiently well established without making a mortal thrust at the character of the Columbia, or any place on the Columbia. But why have so many shipwrecks occurred at Astoria? Why, the fact is, the vessels have been wrecked either lost or seriously injured at or near Astoria. The Silver de Grass and the Aurora were wrecked at some distance above Astoria; and one or two others were lost at the bar at the mouth of the Columbia. Indeed, putting all vessels lost on the Columbia together, would scarcely justify the use of superlative terms. We object on that to the above statement as untrue and prejudicial to the fair fame of our noble river.

Pacific City is beautifully situated on Baker's Bay, and will be the seaport for an extensive and excellent country, and as the commerce of Oregon increases, and the agricultural resources of the country are developed, it will command a full share of the advantages accruing from our progress in improvement. We, however, think, as well of the gentlemanly and worthy proprietors of Pacific City to believe that they would, for personal advantage, authorize a statement so unjust and so evidently untrue as the above.

Astoria is one of the oldest towns in the country. It enjoys a favorable reputation as a commercial point. Its proprietors are doing much not only to advance the interests of their own town, but also the commerce of our rivers. Let them have fair play.

We do not wish to shield ourselves with the affairs of rival cities, but we felt it to be a duty we owed to our noble Columbia and the commerce of Oregon, to set this matter right. And we repeat that, after all that has been said about the dangers at the mouth of the Columbia, there have not been "so many" shipwrecks.

The Steam Propeller Massachusetts arrived at Portland on the 5th inst.

City Improvements.

We are pleased to notice the growing indications of improvement in this city. It is a fact worthy of notice also, that the buildings being erected are of the best quality. And when the houses now under contract are completed, they will add greatly to the appearance of the place. The Female Seminary buildings, the contract for which has been let for eleven thousand dollars, will alone be both an honor and ornament to the city.

As the time for the construction of substantial and permanent edifices has now arrived, we would suggest that it is high time that the streets were regularly graded, or, at least, the scale of gradation made out, so that buildings can be made to correspond with the gradation. If this is not done, the town will soon assume a very untasteful appearance. What about the city charter?

Gold Mines.—The gentlemen who have been absent for some weeks past exploring the Yakama and Spokane in search of gold, have all returned. They report having found some gold—a very small quantity however. The streams were all so high that a satisfactory examination could not be made. It is thought, however, that when the waters subside so as to admit of it, a more thorough examination will bring to light hidden mines of the precious metal.

Celebrations on the Fourth.

We have been informed that our Portland neighbors got up a fine celebration on the Fourth. They were entertained with an able and interesting oration from the Hon. Wm. M. King. All the ordinary exercises of the day were observed, and the day passed off pleasantly.

We will pay our compliments to our Milwaukee & Yam Hill friends next week.

Notice to our Patrons.—Those who know themselves to be indebted to this office on subscription or for advertisements, are requested to favor us with the funds at their earliest convenience.

Corrections.—Dr. McReid requests us to make a correction, which we do with the utmost cheerfulness. In his last article on education, he is made to say that the "Carthaginians and Greeks were once considered the most powerful nations on earth, because they were the best educated." It ought to be the best educated.

The reader will observe that we have grown a little since our last, and we are exceedingly happy in being able to assure them that, with our next paper, we will have attained our full size again.

Indian Difficulties in California.

We commend the following article from the Watchman, a religious periodical published at San Francisco, Cal., to the consideration of the people. The scene of horror and bloodshed there described is liable to frequent repetition not only on the borders of California but also of Oregon. The closing suggestion will chime harmoniously with every right feeling of humanity and benevolence. We would rejoice to see it applied to the Indians in the valley of the Willamette.

Under the most plainly justifiable circumstances, such fearful destruction of human life as that which recently occurred in the case of the Clear Lake and Russian River Indians, cannot be thought of without a shudder of horror. If a deserved retribution, surely it cannot but be regarded as a most deplorable retribution. After a conflict, between power and weakness, of some hours' continuance on an island, at the head of Clear Lake, no less than one hundred slain bodies of the Indians, out of about three hundred warriors, were counted; many more were wounded mortally, and not a few women and children, as well as warriors, were drowned in their attempt to escape from the entire ruin which threatened them. In the engagement the work of death was quite confined to one side, the Americans suffering only in the wounding of two of their men.

The order to exterminate the tribe appears to have been given to the expedition; and, in pursuing further this object, a party of Indians was overtaken in the valley of Russian River, which, however, proved to be a distinct tribe of that region, yet, as was ascertained, concerned with others in committing offences against the whites. These Indians raised the yell of defiance, a signal for fighting, and the engagement commenced, which, like the former, proved most destructive. In this battle about one hundred of the red men were killed.

In reflecting, with painful emotions, upon these scenes, we do not overlook the necessity of securing to our people protection against the predatory and murder