

THE SPECTATOR.

OREGON CITY:
THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 1856.

D. J. SCHNEPPEL, EDITOR.

☞ We have appointed as additional agents for the Spectator, the following persons for those places respectively:

W. H. REES, for Butteville.

ROBERT NEWELL, for Champoug.

DAVIS & LINVILLE, for Luckiamute.

☞ A Table of the weather, carefully kept, will be found in another part of today's paper, by a person whose punctuality, in everything, cannot for a moment be questioned. It may be relied on as strictly correct.

☞ There is to be a ball at the Oregon House on Christmas evening. The whole town and country, it is said, are going to be present. The proprietor says he is going to make his preparations, in every way, suited to the occasion. Persons fond of such amusement will have a fine opportunity to trip on the light fantastic toe.

☞ Persons wishing to furnish their friends in the States with the news, would do well to call at this office early; they will be furnished with papers in wrappers for 25 cts. each. The paper, this week, contains quite a variety of original articles. The Mail for the States will leave on Monday morning next.

☞ The citizens, living on the west side of Main street, will soon be in the enjoyment of a treat in the way of a new side walk. We are glad to see that the city Fathers have an eye to their comfort.—They will certainly know how to appreciate it.

☞ Mr. Thomson would inform his customers, and the public generally, that he has repaired the bridge leading to the Island Mills. It can be crossed with perfect safety.

☞ The Main Street House has opened out under new auspices. The house has been greatly enlarged and improved.—There is a new landlord, a man well calculated for the business, who has taken charge of it. Now that our friend Moss has retired, it is by justice to him to say that the house has been noted for its quietness and good order, since our residence in this city. It is now, and has been entirely free from dissipation and disorder; and we have the assurance of the proprietor that it will be so conducted, in future, as to meet the confidence of a discriminating and right-thinking public.

The new proprietor, Col. S. Richmond, is a gentleman of experience in the business. He is fitting up the house in such a manner as to add greatly to its convenience and comfort.

WILLAMETTE.—On a hasty visit to this place a few days since, we noticed the skeletons of some four or five buildings in the course of erection. Among them is a hotel, which is being built by Mr. Adair, a gentleman who has lately purchased an interest in the town. A project for building a Rail Road from the foot of the rapids to the head of the Falls, is on foot. Of its practicability, from our limited experience in such things, we are unable to say anything, and of the success with which it has met we are not informed.

☞ Our frier I Dryer will see by casting his eyes over our columns, that we can beat his reports, both as to turnips and potatoes. Friend, that effort of the Steamer Columbia was not editorial. Not having yet seen the Steamer Columbia, we were unable to give the puff that was laid to us. Mr. Dryer seems to insinuate that she did not come within a "feet" of pulling over the lower point of the rapids. We shall not be like the man of the 15 feet horse.

COWLITZ AHEAD.—Judge Burby, at the mouth of the Cowlitz, raised a Turnip, this season, that weighed 32 pounds; and Mr. Glasgow, at the Sound, raised a Potato that weighed 4 pounds. We have not seen either of the above, but we rely, with confidence, upon the statements of the person who communicated the facts to us. The inconvenience of forwarding them to us is the reason given why they were not handed over. It is a satisfaction to us to be in the receipt of the specimens, that we may be able to vouch for the correctness of the weight. Without any further ado, we pronounce, with the explanations made, the Cowlitz ahead in turnips, and the Sound ahead in potatoes.

☞ The splendid residence, called Wheatland, of the Hon. Jas. Buchanan, was destroyed by fire on the 26th of September.

Hints to Emigrants.

As to the time of leaving the States, we have previously spoken of the importance of starting early from the Missouri river, in order that persons may avoid difficulties at this end of their journey. Another important inquiry arises, which we shall endeavor to throw some light upon: that is to what kind of team is best calculated for the trip. There are various opinions on this subject, but our own opinion is, that with proper management a good team of horses, mules, or oxen will come through. Persons accustomed to mules prefer them. There is no doubt but that they are much harder than horses, and are capable of enduring more hardships, ill treatment and abuse. They require less time to feed, and a much less choice as to what they feed upon. This, in as much as grass is exceedingly scarce in many places, or was the last season, is deserving of consideration. It might be proper to remark here, that much the heaviest part of the road lies between a Fort Hall and the Cascade mountains; and to travel through the beds of sand, to be found within the two points named, weight in an animal, (for they become very light with the greatest care and attention, and under the most favorable circumstances), it will be discovered, is of great consequence. In this respect, horses have a decided advantage. But when we say horses, we do not wish to be understood as including under this head the little scrubs or lony blooded horses, such as would be considered horses in the eyes of a sportsman. It is not important that a horse be fast as a traveler or racer; but a good walk is indispensably necessary. A horse with a long back, high up from the ground, or long legged and ganglingly built, should not be selected; for not one horse in ten, of such a description, will live to get through, if he is required to perform service.

Horses should not be taken up, by one hour as soon in the morning, and should have at least one hour more allowed them for grazing at noon. Their manner of feeding differs so materially from that of both oxen and mules, that a little caution is here deemed advisable, to keep inexperienced persons from falling into error as to their wants and necessities; that they may provide in the best possible manner to meet the many trying exigencies that will arise whilst performing a journey across the plains. Horses require more care and attention, but what is lost, as a general thing, in time is gained in speed. Horses should not travel so many hours in a day. Mules and oxen are so much alike, as to their feeding and traveling, that to be acquainted with one is to know the other. We have been thus particular in speaking of horses, that persons unaccustomed to their use may not commit indiscretions during the first part of the journey.

The difficulties to be encountered the first 1000 miles are few in number; in road, with few exceptions, is as good as could be desired. We found it comparatively easy to make an average drive of 25 miles per day for that distance. Performing the trip with wagons and horses in 90 days, from the Missouri river to Oregon City, is probably the quickest trip that has ever been made. It was made by us without the loss of either man or beast, and little or no sickness.

No person should start with an old, or what is generally termed, a second hand wagon. Care should be taken not only to have wagons for crossing the plains made of good materials, but they should be well put together. One important consideration is the manner of fastening on the tire, not with mere nails driven into the felloes, but they should be fastened on with screws, and with taps tightly screwed down. The necessity of it will be found most apparent after crossing the mountains and traveling in the hot sand, to be met with between the Cascade mountains and Fort Hall. We deem this caution highly necessary, that the emigrant may not suffer delays, if not something worse, a break down, and that too, in a country where repairs are out of the question.

No calculation should be made on obtaining supplies at any point along the road. Every person should start with enough to carry his party through. Of bread stuffs, 125 lbs. to each person is not too much; 100 lbs. clear bacon; 15 lbs. dried fruit; 1 gallon vinegar; 4 lbs. salt; 1 gallon pickles; 8 lbs. rice; 2 quarts of beans; 12 lbs. of sugar; 5 lbs. coffee; 1 lb. tea; 1 gallon brandy; 1 lb. saleratus. Such are about the proportions of the things we would recommend. We leave the outfit of medicines and ammunition to the discretion of the emigrant, with the single remark, that it is useless to load down their teams with guns. Of that indispensable article called patience, we will not specify the amount necessary, but it will require, under the most favorable circumstances, upwards of considerable.

It might not be amiss to urge again the great importance of making an early start, and give the teams their time, so they may not have to urge them faster than their natural gait.

Debate in the Council.

There was quite an interesting debate arose in the Council on Monday last, in which nearly all the members to a greater or less extent participated. We give below the substance of the more important speeches, as they occurred. The debate was characterized by earnestness and freedom of expression, though it was courteous and gentlemanly throughout. The subject of the debate was the introduction of the "White-washing resolutions," as they were termed, commendatory of all Mr. Thurston's actions as Delegate in Congress. The resolutions were introduced by Mr. Waymire, one of which contained the following in substance:

Resolved, That we highly approve of the acts of Hon. Sam'l R. Thurston, our Delegate to Congress, for his indefatigable exertions in procuring the passage of the Donation Bill; and for his unceasing efforts to serve well his constituents, he deserves our highest praise.

Mr. Waymire led off in support of his resolutions, which were advocated in his warmest and best style. He could not see why there should be any opposition to the resolutions as they were introduced. It was simply meeting out to an honorable Representative his just deserts.

Mr. Buck followed, in opposition to the resolutions, and was opposed to endorsing every act of the Delegate. He denied that the credit for the passage of the bill was due to Mr. Thurston alone. That the people of Oregon were greatly indebted to Senator Linn (now dead) for much greater favors, in times past, and that Mr. Benton, too, has ever been one of Oregon's most ardent supporters. He considered Congress just ripe and willing to do anything that might be asked within reason. The other Territories east of the mountains, Missouri for instance, had received favors, in the way of appropriations, almost equal to that of Oregon.

Mr. Waymire replied with considerable warmth, and was surprised to see people who had been so highly favored by the bill, rising in opposition to the resolutions as introduced. He had no idea that such a simple tribute of justice, due our Delegate, would meet with so much disfavor. It was ungrateful, to say the least.

Mr. McBride rose and said in substance, that he was friendly to Mr. Thurston, but at this early day he was unwilling to sanction everything that the Delegate had done in the matter. He was of the opinion, however, that if the matter had been postponed until near the close of the Session, that it might then be considered with more propriety; and that he had not the least doubt but that by pursuing that course, ample justice would be done Mr. Thurston. But he was wholly opposed to the matter, in its wholesale and retail form; and were it urged now, he would be compelled to vote against it.

Mr. Waymire rose, and said that he was proud to say that he was the first man to offer his name as a candidate, in Polk county, for the post he now fills.—He had performed his mission with credit to himself and honor to his country.

Mr. Buck was of the opinion, that for the peculiar features of the bill, Mr. Thurston deserved all the praise; for the most obvious parts, particularly. And that for so framing the bill as to reserve part of the Oregon City claim for the use of the Territory, and dividing one-half of it to the milling company, and cutting off the right of those who purchased lots of Dr. McLaughlin since the 4th of March, 1849; for such legislation he richly merited the contempt of every right-thinking man.

Mr. Hall rose and expressed the opinion that his consideration now was not only premature, but the resolutions were couched in too strong language to be endorsed by him. He was friendly to Mr. Thurston, and might possibly support him in a re-election, though he would not commit himself. He was not disposed to find fault with the Delegate, and yet he was not willing to bespatter him with such wholesale praise. Because, he did not think the bill as perfect as it might have been made; as to himself (individually) he was well suited, but there were persons, he found, after a full examination of facts, who had just cause of complaint. Hence his unwillingness to support the resolutions; which, if urged at this time, he would vote against.

Mr. Parker rose, and entertained the House in his characteristic style. His effort was bold and energetic, though not so pertinent to the subject; it was earnest and went the "whole hog" for the resolutions. Our limited space will not admit of our giving so full an account of the matter as we could wish. We were not privileged with a sight of the resolutions. We had to depend upon what we could gather from the remarks as they fell from the speakers.

☞ The Whigs of New York, at the Syracuse Convention, nominate the Hon. Washington Hunt as their candidate for Governor.

As it should be.

We learn, with pleasure, that a memorial to Congress has been reported by a committee of the House of Representatives, praying a modification of the Land Law, so as to render it optional with those who are entitled to a donation of land upon compliance with Section four, of that law, to obtain a title to their claims by donation from four years actual residence thereon, or by purchase at one dollar and a quarter per acre.

There can be no doubt but such a law, by Congress, would be hailed with unanimous rejoicings. Thousands of persons would be benefited by such an act, and no person would be injured by it.

Justice to the young men who have labored for the improvement of the country, and who have been foremost in its defense, require such an act, and no man in the Legislative Assembly should utter a word by way of objection to it.

As the law now reads, a man and his wife may obtain a patent for 640 acres of land, by residing upon it in a tent for four consecutive years, and cultivate a garden, while the young man, who makes his home with a neighbor, cannot hold his claim, although the whole is placed under cultivation. The industrious mechanic has done as much to advance Oregon, as the farmer; to require him to live upon his claim, is placing him out of his element, to the disadvantage of himself and neighbors, and yet, he has as high a claim upon the bounty of the government as any other person. Widows, too, are entirely overlooked.

To publish a paper, printers must necessarily lose their great object in coming to the country, unless some relief is allowed them.

By allowing a claimant of town sites to purchase their claims should remove all disabilities against selling lots.

In short, there are many, very many good reasons why the prayer of the memorial should be granted, and no good reason against it.

We have no doubt but the kindness and liberality extended to us by Congress, in the passage of our law, will be continued to us by the modification prayed for.

We sincerely hope that the memorial will pass unanimously, and that our delegate in Congress will be able to return to his constituents, bringing the modification prayed for, as further evidence of his untiring industry.

We find no fault with the delegate.—It would be foolish in us to expect perfection in modeling the Land Law. Our only object is to have all benefited who are justly entitled to a grant; and it is clear that government has no other object than this to accomplish in the matter of grants.

Embezzlement.

We understand that an examination took place on Tuesday last before Judge Strong, in relation to alleged misconduct of Mr. Charles R. Kinney, who was in charge of the ship *Albion* and her cargo, from the time of her seizure until she was sold. It appears from the evidence, that there had been the grossest neglect of the property; and that many things, as blankets, clothing, and provisions of various kinds had been pilfered, lost or used by Kinney in part, and in part by other persons, whom it is not necessary to name at present. The Court deemed the matter one of grave importance, deserving further investigation; and thereupon ordered Mr. Kinney to give bonds in the sum of \$1000 for his appearance at the next term of the District Court in Lewis county, to answer to any indictment that may then be found against him.

K. PROBERT, Esq. counsel for Kinney.
A. HODGSON, Esq. Attorney for the Government.

The undersigned, passengers on board the Schooner "Merchautman," from San Francisco to Oregon, hereby express their entire satisfaction with the accommodations furnished on board of the vessel, her speed and the comforts enjoyed. To the Master, Capt. Frederick Morse, they offer their cordial thanks, for his kind care and attention, every effort in his power being made to provide for our gratification, comfort, and agreeable passage. We tender him our best wishes for his future success and prosperity.

Miss S. A. Williams, A. J. Hembree,
Wm. Barlow, S. Campbell,
Wm. W. Towle, T. Buckner,
J. Winterton.

LARGE TURNIPS.—It will be seen by the following that our neighbors below, of the Oregonian and Star, are endeavoring to lead us in producing roots and "garbs."

Mr. Williamson, of the Bute Farms, Washington county, has sent us, of his own raising, the largest solid turnip we ever saw. Its weight is 10 pounds. If there is any person that can beat it, we say let him shell it out.—*Oregon Spectr.*

☞ We can "shell out" one much larger. T. B. Haatings brought a turnip to our office that weighed 30 lbs., which was raised by Milton Hale, of Linn county. Don't talk about your ten pounders, friend Schneppel, come down and we'll show you a thirty pounder. Do you see any thing green there? Now, then, for the "Western Star." Stand from under, Oregonian.

Messrs. King & Fuller, of Portland, have left at our office a potato measuring 23 1-2 inches in circumference one way, and 12 1-2 the other; weighing 3 1-2 lbs. This was not the largest one raised by them, but was selected for its beauty and symmetry of form. Messrs. K. & F. not only manufacture good leather, but raise most potatoes.

Birds-eye View of Oregon.

It is our wish to make known as fully as possible the capacity of Oregon, as respects its agriculture, commerce and manufactures. An article from the pen of T. J. Dryer, of the Oregonian, is just the thing we want; we publish it head, body, and ether extremity.

Position and Localities of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, and the Principal Towns situated upon them, from their Mouths.

The Columbia River enters the Pacific Ocean from the East, at 49° 10' N. Immediately on the north side of the mouth of the river or bay, is a high head land, called Cape Disappointment, against which the heavy waves of the ocean, with their white crested tops have dashed for ages past, and will continue to sound their mournful dirge in the ears of the mariner and adventurer for ages to come.

The entrance to the Bay is said to be somewhat intricate and difficult, yet like all other difficulties, easily surmounted with safety, when understood and attempted by those who are qualified to the task. Capt. White, the only pilot now there, has always been successful in bringing in all vessels with perfect safety, and comparative ease.

Immediately on rounding Cape Disappointment by the North channel, the bay extends to the Northward and Westward for a considerable distance, forming a bay, land locked on the North and West, which is called Baker's Bay; on the N. W. shore of which is situated Pacific City, which appears to be well located, and possessing advantages of no common character; it already has a spacious Hotel and several other substantial buildings, with many improvements, which are progressing rapidly. The anchorage is said to be good, several vessels were lying at anchor in the bay when we passed. The country around presents most beautiful prospect. The highland covered with a thrifty growth of valuable timber as far as the eye can reach, with an occasional indentation of valleys of broad extent and rich fertility, inviting the hand of the arduous and agriculturalist. Far in the distance to the eastward, I loomed up in majestic grandeur and sublimity the snow capped tip of Mount St. Helens, upon whose summit human foot has never trod and perhaps never will. To the southward the country appears level and well adapted to agricultural purposes. Several farm houses are located near the margin of the river, while numerous cattle were leisurely grazing upon its green covered banks.

About six miles from the mouth of the river, on the south bank, we passed Fort George, or Astoria, a town of considerable size, at which the U. S. troops are quartered; many of the buildings were apparently new and of good taste. The "Star Spangled Banner," that ever glorious emblem of "the land of the free and the home of the brave," was happily floating in the breeze upon the top of a majestic flag staff or Liberty pole, planted by the hands of enlightened freemen.

One mile above on the same side, the Steamer "Oregon" dropped her anchor, run up to her mast head, the flag of our Union, and fired a national salute in honor of the admission of California.

This place is called Astoria; the Post Office, Custom House, &c., are located here; there are but few buildings, but what there are, being new and of modern style, present a fine appearance.

The bay extends several miles to the eastward, on either side of which there appears to be a heavy growth of valuable timber extending to the tops of the high lands in the distance. The entrance to the Columbia river from the bay, may be made by several channels, which finally merge into one. The Columbia is, with out exception, the most beautiful river we have ever seen, and when compared with the Mississippi, Ohio, Hudson, St. Lawrence and St. Josephina, will far exceed either of them in magnificence. The water is as clear as the crystal fountain from the mountain springs, the channel deep and wide, the curves gradual and sublime, the banks high and even lined with woodland, with here and there the "cave" of the pioneer, who has periled much, and manifested a degree of indomitable perseverance truly noble, to make his home in this distant land. Forests are fast yielding to the axe of the adventurer, and the ground here before trod by the wild savage, or inhabited solely by the wild beasts of the forest, now produce, by the application of industry, rich rewards to their occupants. The Indian retreats before the march of civilization and American enterprise; the howling wilderness is fast becoming fruitful fields, and ere long this isolated country will be far in the advance of many portions of our republic of a century's age.

The first town of note above Astoria, is St. Helens, about 60 miles distant. It is beautifully situated on the south bank of the Columbia, on high rolling ground, with a beautiful supply of building material at hand to build up a large and flourishing town.

The proprietors are said to be men of the most liberal enterprise, and well adapted to the building up and settling a new country. Go ahead, gentlemen, we hope your most sanguine expectations will be more than realized. Above St. Helens, the farre houses become more numerous, this part of the country having been long or settled.

The town of Milton, one mile and a half above St. Helens, is fast improving, and may look forward with confidence to its future importance. It is well situated for a town, and surrounded by the finest agricultural country in Oregon, which is fast settling. We are told that the flats or bottom land, which occasionally overflows, are of great extent and produce abundant grass for the grazing of immense

flocks and herds; besides affording an opportunity of cutting large quantities of hay. From this place, also, it is proposed to build a Railroad to Lafayette, and the interior of Oregon. Some 20 miles above enters the Willamette river, a noble stream about half a mile in width, and navigable for the largest class of vessels. This river drains a large and extensive country, rich in agricultural resources, upon whose banks are situated the largest and most flourishing towns in the Territory, with extensive water power, and immense quantities of timber.

The first town of importance is Portland, 15 miles from the junction of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, situated on the west bank of the Willamette, upon a high table land, gradually ascending from the river for some twenty miles, when the land becomes rolling and covered with a dense forest of the most beautiful timber for a distance of 7 or 8 miles to the plains or prairie country, which, for richness of soil and extent, cannot be surpassed by any country on the continent. The timber is principally a species of Pine called Fir, and makes the finest quality of lumber, well adapted to all building or other purposes.

Portland is a town of about 1500 inhabitants, and has sprung into existence within an incredible short space of time. The buildings are mostly low, of good style and taste, which with their white and dingy appearance of towns generally on the Pacific coast, gives it a most home like aspect. We have a steam saw mill already in operation, and another about being erected, as well as a flouring mill, machine shop, planing mill, &c., which will add much to the importance of the place. The property holders, by their industry and liberality, are manifesting an earnest interest in the future destiny of the place. The inhabitants for intelligence and moral worth, are not surpassed by any town in the States. We have a Methodist Church just completed, which combines beauty and convenience with a substantial building of modern style, and large dimensions nearly completed. Common Schools receive a large share of attention; a spacious School house has already been built, which is daily filled with a large number of the rising generation, whose building models are being framed by teachers competent to the task.

Six miles above Portland on the east bank of the river is located Milwaukie, which bids fair to compete with her sister towns in enterprise and business. There is a good water power which is considerably improved already, and susceptible of still more improvement. A fine large steamer, designed for the navigation of the river, is being built at this place, and is now under a forward state of completion; we hope to see her in her native element, and wish her abundant success.

Still further up, a distance of six miles, stands the beautiful town called Oregon City, the oldest and till lately admitted to be the largest and most business town in Oregon. Portland, although much younger, now claims an equality with her, whether she is entitled to it, is not in our view material. Oregon City is a beautiful town, has one of the finest and most extensive water powers we have ever witnessed (not excepting Richmond, Virginia, or Rochester, N. Y.). Her flouring and saw mills are doing an extensive business, which adds much to the interest of the place and country generally. The navigation of the river here is interrupted by rapids for some two miles distance, at the upper end of which is a fall of twenty feet perpendicular, presenting an impenetrable barrier to the further progress of vessels, although the river is said to be navigable for over 100 miles above the falls, for medium sized river steamers.

On the opposite side of the river is a town of considerable importance, called Linn City, although not as large as Oregon City, it has the facilities and elements, with proper developments, to become a rival.

Fifteen miles further up is a town of considerable trade, and well located, called Champoug, which is surrounded by a good thriving agricultural country, and bids fair to become a place of considerable importance.

Salem comes next in order, which is well located on the east side of the Willamette, some 40 miles above Portland, containing 3 or 400 inhabitants. At this place is located a Seminary of much importance, which is under the care of the Methodist Missionary Society, and is doing much in the dissemination of learning, so important to the well-being of a new country.

Syracuse, Albany, Marysville, Cincinnati, and several other towns, are in a good healthy condition, well located upon the Willamette and its tributaries, at each of which, there is an increasing trade and commerce, worthy the attention of the adventurer and emigrant.

The Willamette valley contains an area of some 200 miles in length, and from 50 to 75 miles in breadth, the whole of which is rich, and well adapted to agricultural pursuits, well watered, and healthy. We hazard nothing in saying, that no country can present greater inducements to settlers than this.

Hillsborough, the county seat of Washington county, is yet a small town, situated 18 miles west of Portland, in the midst of one of the most beautiful agricultural regions we have ever seen, on what is called Tualatin Plains.

Lafayette, the county seat of Yam Hill county, is a large and flourishing town of about 800 inhabitants, having a good water power, and other advantages which will make it one of the most important towns in the country in a very short time. Umpqua City situated on the Umpqua river, although new, is attracting more