

THE SPECTATOR.

OREGON CITY.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1851.

CHESELY, EDITOR.

STEARNS' BOATMEN.—There are now two steamboats plying on the upper Willamette; Capt. Murray's Propeller, Washington, having started this morning on her first trip to ascend as far as Marysville. There is another boat fitting up—Capt. Bissell's—which will be got in readiness in four or five weeks at farthest. Hedges & Barlow, too, expect to have their new double-engine boat running sometime in September.

It is encouraging, too, to see the head of navigation extended to the Falls—a fact that seems to disturb the composure of Bro. Dryer's mind. He seems to have forgotten to mention that the Bark Success had passed that city on her way up to the Falls, and that she had succeeded, too, in coming nearly the whole way under sail. We expect to see, however, in his next, her safe arrival here—where she has been lying for the past week—as her success has been proven to him by ocular demonstration. If we were jealous of our neighboring city below, we might call to account its puffing editor for writing the following extract:

"It is said the late rise of the river has had a wonderful tendency to raise property, steamboat stock, &c. &c. at a neighboring city above us. Hope it won't go down with the river again."

Our neighbor will be taken by surprise one of these days when he least suspects it. There is a movement being made to absorb his bolstered and favorite city—it is in contemplation to move the whole affair bodily, except the member elect to the Legislature and the fever and ague advantages located there. The mosquitoes, too, will be left to die, each, a natural death.

The faithful are called upon to meet at Salem under the direction of the defeated ones for place, to organize the patriotic, loaves and fishes-loving democracy. We would like to know the *Ritchie* of the movement; we would place his name in capitals for future reference. Cannot some one on the ground give us an inkling of matters and things for our next paper? There is no doubt but the public would like to keep "posted up" in affairs that have for their object the growth and salvation of the country. The great good that would follow an immediate organization is too apparent to need pointing out. There are some magistrates, supervisors, and constables to be elected yearly. Any person who thinks that such considerations are not of sufficient magnitude to draw the lines, cannot have the welfare of his country at heart, and to say the least, is no good and true democrat. So beat the drum and sound the trumpet!—the important crisis is at hand—come forth, ye sons of the valley! and *titicus* of the hills, waken up to the importance of the occasion—let your light shine that other parts of the Territory may profit by your example.—Let not a stone remain unturned, oh! ye well wishers! There is but little doubt that the appeal is strong enough to produce a general participation.

The Oregonian wants to know where the Legislature is to meet the coming session! We would refer him to P. Wayne and Col. King. We understood they had a conference a few days ago and adopted an order of exercises.—They have got the chart completed. But it is hinted by some that King is not to be the future bell-weather of the lower house—he has been superseded. The Oregonian can now have the matter settled, as to the place of meeting, by calling on the Democratic organ, the *Times*, which is or ought to be in the secret. The people of Salem settled it long ago according to their own notions. They were going to elect the Delegate to Congress, too, only they didn't.

The following is the official vote from various Counties in the Territory for Delegate to Congress:

County	Joe Lamm	W. H. Wilson
Clackamas County	259	30
Marion "	224	172
Umpqua Precincts	44	
Scott's "	38	
Aiken's Ferry	37	
Polk County	218	28
Yamhill "	271	27
Yatton "	112	28
Washington Co.	412	163
Lane (Skinners)	43	5
Pacific Co.	21	
Clark "	58	1
Lewis "	118	82
	1911	426

The Willamette is an ornament to the country. There is taste, neatness and order in every department; even the crew is well cared for—neat hammocks are elegantly arranged for their express accommodation on the forward part of the boiler deck. The entire construction of the boat is such as to make it an object of admiration. She is certainly a crack boat to all appearances. As to her speed we were not able to form an opinion, as she descended to Portland under a light head of steam, running, many times, but one wheel. She runs, notwithstanding her ponderous machinery, with comparatively little jarring.

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SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Oregon City, June 21, 1851.
To the Editor of the Oregon Spectator:
Sir—The letter of Wm. Porter, Esq., addressed to you, containing interrogatories about some of the provisions of the Land Law, and requesting an answer from me, came to hand. In answer to the interrogatories contained therein, and to numerous letters I have received from other persons, making similar enquiries, I would state—
1st. The law requires proof by two or more disinterested witnesses that the settler has "resided upon and cultivated the land for four consecutive years," and that "the donation shall embrace the land actually occupied and cultivated by the settler thereon."
2d. The land claimed for a donation must be in one body, and in a compact form, the wife's portion must be a part of the original claim or adjoining it.
3d. A single man will be allowed to embrace in his original claim, enough for his wife, should he get one, but can only hold the portion he would be entitled to, if not married within the time specified by the act.
4th. A settler who is not married on or before the 1st day of December, 1851, or within one year after arriving in said Territory, can only hold a single man's portion. If married after, the wife is not entitled to a donation of land.
5th. If an emigrant's wife dies on the way to or in Oregon, before a claim is taken, he is only entitled to a single man's donation, unless he marries again within the time specified by the act.
6th. In case a settler's wife dies, he marrying again, the wife's portion of the claim should go to the heirs of the first wife.
7th. In case a settler dies before the notification is made, leaving a widow, she marrying again before 1st Dec., 1851, or within one year after the arrival of her second husband in Oregon, will be entitled to half of the first husband's claim in her own right, or she may abandon it, and hold half of the second husband's claim, if he had not been married before.
8th. If a settler's wife dies, and he marries again before the 1st Dec., 1851, or within one year after his arrival in Oregon, the second wife is entitled to a donation, but it must be adjoining her husband's claim.
9th. If a settler's wife dies, and he marries the widow of another settler, the deceased wife's portion will go to her heirs, and the deceased settler's share will go to his heirs.
10th. If an emigrant dies on the way to Oregon, leaving a widow, she arriving in Oregon prior to the 1st Dec., 1850, can have a donation of 320 acres of land, by complying with the law, "residing upon and cultivating the same for four consecutive years."
11th. In cases where a married man has not resided within his claim, as he and his wife are entitled to, the claim will be equally divided between them.
12th. To secure a donation to children, the claim must be legally taken, that is, "resided upon and cultivated" by the parents of the children before their death.
13th. An alien who was a resident of Oregon Territory previous to 1st Dec., 1850, should declare his intention according to law to become a citizen of the United States, previous to the 1st Dec., 1851, to entitle him to a donation of land.
Very respectfully,
JNO. B. PRESTON.

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