

# Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY.  
TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1851.

J. SCHNEELY, EDITOR.

**Editorial Correspondence.**  
Hillsborough, July 16, 1851.  
The interest manifested at this place in the improvement of Tualatin river is much greater than we expected to find it. The people here think its practicability beyond question, and are willing to do a large share towards rendering it navigable for steam boats. The river was explored, a short time since, by a small party from below, and ascended the river as far as one mile above Hillsborough. The people residing immediately along the river, on both sides, are deeply sensible of the great advantages that would result to the whole country around Hillsborough, West Tualatin Plains, and Chehalis valley, as well as the country immediately along the river, were the project successfully carried through.

Mr. T. D. Humphries says, we were told, that he will obligate himself to clear a width of the stream as far as it rough the channel, at his own expense; and there are some three or four heavy drifts on his place, if others equally and alike interested, will take upon themselves the responsibility of doing as much, it will not take long to carry it through. There are places where the land is not claimed; this would have to be done by subscription.— It is confidently believed that the necessary sum could soon be raised among the people a little way off, who would use it as a channel of communication, were it as improved as to make it available. The way is open now for some person to take the matter in hand, and the people are convinced that the time is now at hand for action. The question then is, who will be the enterprising man to set the ball in motion? and follow it up—collect the funds as to the probable expense, the best means of getting about it, and determine how far navigation can be calculated upon. The farmers in this section of the country can get their wheat to market by teaming at a cost of about 50 cents. When wheat is worth only \$1.25 and \$1.50, it costs almost as much to haul it to market as it is worth after it gets there, deducting the cost of transportation. The present condition of the roads is such that hauling can be done only during the dry weather in summer, and light loads only can be taken at best. No time should be lost now. It should be prosecuted with vigor, and no pains should be spared until the work is commenced. Once commenced there is little doubt but that it would be carried through. The people here are all willing to do something, and they hope that the persons below will take hold and assist in it.

There is some dissatisfaction existing here concerning the Plank Road charter granted by the last Legislature. Many of them signed the agreement to abide the requirements of the charter. They were willing, in case the project would fail, to lose the amount they subscribed; but the wording of the charter is such that it makes the property of the subscribers liable for other losses, should there be any, in proportion to the amount subscribed.— They think it enough to lose the original subscription without becoming liable for more. In case of mismanagement or failure, they are of opinion that they would "be in for more than they bargained for." Hence the cause of complaint. They did not understand the full meaning of the charter when they signed. They now think themselves fooled and wish themselves out of the enterprise.

Harvesting in this neighborhood is going on briskly. The cutting of wheat just begun a few days ago. The wheat crop is considered very good in this part of the country. The exceeding warm weather for the past week has hastened on the time of harvesting very rapidly. The farmers, in the absence of help, have much of the work to do themselves.— Seeds are very scarce.

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## Extract from the Indian War.

On the 27th ult., Major Kearney caused operations against the Rogue River Indians, having spent some twelve days in scouring the Indian country. Many battles or skirmishes were fought and some fifty Indians were killed and many wounded, thirty prisoners taken, their villages burned, and provisions (consisting of salmon, roots, berries, and grass seed), destroyed. They were no longer to be found in force; broken up, they had fled for safety in small parties to the mountains, inaccessible for a mounted force, men and horses, regulars and volunteers, worn out by almost constant hard service during the whole time. The major concluded to rest his command a day or two, and then in obedience to his orders proceed on his way to California. On the 24th the volunteers disbanded and most of them started for the diggings; but few were bound to Oregon, consequently not in sufficient force to safely conduct the prisoners to the settlements. Major Kearney was determined not to release them until peace could be made with their people. Concluding to take them to California and send them up by sea to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, he proceeded with them to near the Chasta Butte, where he was overtaken by an express with a proposition from Gen. Lane (who had gone to Chasta diggings after active operations had ceased), to take the prisoners back to Oregon. The Major promptly complied and sent them back to the diggings by Capt. Walker, who traveled all night to get them to the diggings, where he delivered them to Gen. Lane, who had formed a party of some fifteen Oregonians, who promptly offered to assist in conducting the prisoners safely to the settlements, or until they could meet the Governor who had been reported to be on his way to the scene of hostilities. The party arrived at the crossing of Rogue River on the 7th inst., where they found Gov. Gaines with some fifteen or twenty men, and to him they delivered the prisoners. On their way in Gen. Lane had a talk with some fifty or sixty of the Indians; they manifested a desire for peace. The Gov. sent out his interpreter on the 8th inst., to invite the chiefs to come in for the purpose of talking with them about the difficulties, and if possible make peace.

On the same day General Lane's party left for the settlements. The Gov. and his party were all well and in good spirits. These Indians have for the first time been severely handled and well punished for their villainous conduct; they had collected a strong force for the purpose of killing and robbing our people while on their way to and from the mines, had committed many robberies, besides killing Dille and one other man.

Major Kearney and command, regulars and volunteers, deserve the highest praise for their good conduct during the whole affair. How exceedingly unfortunate it is for Oregon that the remnant of the Rifle Regiment should be ordered from the Territory at this time. Our interests are greatly paralyzed, the entire Territory left unprotected at the time when every one must see the absolute necessity of a garrison in the Rogue River valley.

The "Legal Opinion on a part of the Oregon Land Bill, by a late judge (?) etc., etc., corresponding secretary etc., etc.," which we spoke of last week, goes off well; we have disposed of one and a half during the week. The young man who took the half one has but half a claim, and consequently did not need a whole "legal opinion." He says one of these "legal opinions" is invaluable in holding a claim—that in his absence he has no fear of having his claim jumped, because they are so much like the "late judge etc., etc.," they will "shoot" if any person attempts to jump it. We would like to establish an agency for the sale of "legal opinions" in Polk county. Who wants the agency? Don't all speak at once.

The steamer Sea-Gull arrived at Portland yesterday. Left San Francisco the same day the Columbia left, and consequently brings no later dates. The Sea-Gull stopped four days at Port Orford, and left a party of 65 men with 4 cannon and plenty of small arms and ammunition; 24 of the party started immediately for the Rogue River and Chasta mines.— The Sea-Gull will leave Portland for San Francisco to-morrow, touching at Port Orford, Trinidad, and Humboldt. Todd & Co. will dispatch an express per the Sea-Gull, and also with the Columbia on next Thursday, the 24th.

We are happy to learn that Jacob Parsons was not killed by the Indians, as was stated by us some weeks ago. This news will be gratifying to his many friends.

There is considerable interest being felt just now in regard to the coming emigration. The people throughout the Territory are anxious to learn as much as possible in relation to the number, character, and prospects of those on the road to this region; and being aware of this, we have culled from the late papers all we could find having any allusion to the subject; but from the paucity of such intelligence, we are inclined to believe that the coming emigration will not be so numerous as many persons anticipate. Perhaps thousands will come, hundreds certainly, but when scattered over this wide region, will not, probably, be very sensibly felt in any distinct portion of it, and most of them not being very wealthy, will not probably at first enter into any heavy business speculations. Yet we think the coming emigration will give a new impetus to business in Oregon. Most of them will probably enter upon the public land, and immediately begin to bring the resources of the country to the best account. The stock will be greatly improved and multiplied, and a permanent market established, and supplied at stable and reasonable prices. Heretofore there has been a strange apathy in agricultural pursuits, though its rewards have been unprecedented. As good land as was ever furrowed by the plough is untouched, the means of making money easier, being found in other channels. Many farmers have wheat now in their granaries which was produced three or four years ago, and some will harvest but little or none the present season. It seems strange that things should be so long in settling to their inevitable level, that the most productive soil on earth cannot be made to supply the best market that ever existed. Oregon ought to supply the entire market of California, with both produce and lumber. But she does not. While we raise the best wheat here any where to be found, Chili flour finds the readiest sale in California. Our flour is not as well manufactured—there can be no other reason why we are surpassed in the market by a semi-civilized State. Lumber is brought 15000 miles to supply a market but three days sail from the best lumber country in the world.

There must be a change—there will be a change, and though the gold mines should continue equally rich, they cannot prevent it. Things must take their relative positions, as they are now doing in California.

Before we came to Oregon, we had often been told that there was never any hot weather here, never any rain in summer, west of the South Pass; the climate too cold for the production of Indian corn, &c., and the upland soil too dry for cultivation without irrigation. No hot weather in Oregon! It came very near being the latter part of last week. On Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock, the thermometer stood 98 degs. in the shade. Such weather is not usual here, but it shows what it may become by a little encouragement. In regard to rain, we have had several refreshing showers since the close of the rainy season, and we never had a mere thorough soaking than we were favored with last summer just west of the South Pass. Some six weeks ago there were some cabbage plants transplanted in a bed of sand near this office. We expected to see them wither and die, but instead they flourished finely, and now their broad leaves overshadow nearly the whole patch. We were lately informed by a gentleman from that region, that he never saw more promising Indian corn than is growing this season in the Umpqua valley. We presume that portion of the country is well adapted to the cultivation of the grape, peach, apricot, melon, and many other kinds of fruit which persons abroad think the climate of Oregon too cool to produce. We notice in a late paper from the States, that some person had set Oregon down as bearing a great deal of fruit. If he alluded to the common orchard fruit, we don't know where it is; but if he meant wild fruit, he was right. There are several nurseries in Oregon, and a number of farmers have set out orchards, but they are generally so young that they yield but little fruit. Wild fruit (mostly berries) is abundant, and answers tolerably well as a substitute for the cultivated fruit.

"CHRISTMAS"; By THEODORE J. ECKHART.—A very good little prose article infused with the true spirit of poetry, in this number of our paper. There is a vein of deep home feeling in Mr. E.'s pieces, which is sure to win the sympathies of the reader.

"MAY THE BLESSING," That which among the hills so sweetly, ever bring hope and buoyancy to his spirits, and pleasing associations "keep his memory green."

Michigan has abolished all laws for the collection of debt.

It is well known that both the editor and publisher of the Spectator are politically opposed to Gen. Lane, and that in addition the latter is a bitter personal enemy of his.

The above is a paragraph of the effusions of that political juggler that edits the Statesman. The misunderstanding between Gen. Lane and the publisher was of a private nature, which has long since passed away without making him "a bitter personal enemy" by any means, and he doubts much if the General thanks this strippling for dragging it (a private matter) before the public at this late day. In regard to statements in the paper, they were written by others, not by us or him; the same privilege will be awarded to the General if he desires it, as to all others. But as to making attacks on him since the paper came into the possession of the present proprietor, it is a palpable falsehood, and he defies this Chicopee juggler to point out in our editorial columns one single sentence reflecting on Gen. Lane; nor is it our manner of doing with any of the Federal officers appointed in the Territory or in the States; we make no attacks on them and hope we will never have cause to do so, but would rather strengthen their influence, if it was necessary, throughout the Territory. We announce their appointments and arrivals in the Territory on the earliest advice, sparing all unnecessary comments or fulsome adulations.

Gen. Lane is our delegate to Congress; as such we shall use all honorable means to extend his influence for the good of Oregon. If we did not forward his election, we are satisfied that we did not retard it. Can the Chicopee vegetable say as much? Will he inform us and the people why he was so slow in doing honor to the object of his present admiration? Did he have to wait to get leave of his owners?

CHANGE IN FASHIONS.—The change which is taking place in the States in ladies' dress, is producing quite a sensation in various sections of the country. We allude to the new style of short dresses and trousers. It is decidedly popular with the press, and we should not be surprised, from the cordial reception it has generally received on the other side the mountains, if some of the editors adopt it themselves. However, this fashion has suggested a change in male apparel.— A new style of coat is talked of—one made for comfort—one that can be worn without confining the arms in a strait jacket; and a hat that will stay on without being compelled to press the head into it like the cork in a bottle. These sections of stove-pipe are neither graceful nor agreeable, so "take my hat."

The deep, full tones which pealed last Sabbath from the new bell in the Methodist church, which, till now, "These rocks and these vales never heard," had much of music in them and a sweet pathos that would call many to the house of God, who otherwise might remain at home. There is real music in the tones of the "church-going bell." It is music which our forefathers loved, and which Christians have loved for centuries. It is almost a sermon itself—startling us by its heavy monotone, or soothing by its receding vibrations. It makes "Our yearn come rushing backward like a flood," and awakens gentle, far-off whisperings, that few things else could awaken.

GEN. LANE arrived in this city on Thursday evening last, direct from the Rogue River country. He leaves here to-morrow on the mail steamer for the States. We wish the brave old soldier a safe journey.

When the General arrives in Washington and lays the true state of affairs before the Government, we feel assured that justice will be done to the people of Oregon.

A letter from Gov. Gaines, lately received here by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, speaks more encouragingly of the state of things on Rogue River.— It seems he attributes much of the blame in these difficulties to the whites.

THANKS.—To Todd & Co's Express for late papers from California and the States in advance of the mail. We understand this enterprising company have perfected their line to all parts of the Willamette valley, Umpqua valley, and to the Klamath mines.

In looking over this city, it is very easy to distinguish the old era and the new, or what was accomplished before the discovery of the gold mines, and what after it. Most of the buildings erected before that period, are small, and but few having been painted, look old and brown, while those of a late date are mostly large and elegantly finished.

The mail for California and over the States will close to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

For the Spectator.  
Umpqua, July 5, 1851.

Having recently returned from Rogue river, late the field of Maj. Kearney's military operations, I may perhaps be able to give some information interesting to your readers.

The above we witness to most of the claims, as they have been the themes for able pens, it is not my purpose to detail them, but to attempt a description of the various routes by which Maj. Kearney traversed and scoured the Rogue river country. Ascertaining at Mr. Knott's house, (at the mouth of the Canyon) that the Rogue river Indians were in actual hostilities with the white, and that they had embodied in the neighborhood of the Table Rock, Maj. Kearney determined to attack them at that point.

Table Rock is a noted landmark in the Rogue river valley, on the north side of the river, which washes its base, about five miles north of the Springs, and twenty miles above the crossing; it is by nature a strong military position, and from its marauding parties could by a few hours' march, make their descents upon the valley from the crossing of the river to the Siski Mountains. Using the Rock as a watch tower, the Indians in perfect security themselves, have a large extent of the valley, and a long line of the road under their eyes—which enables them to determine the strength of each passing party and the place of their encampment. To penetrate the Rogue river valley by a route entirely new, which would enable him to attack and perhaps surprise the enemy in the rear of this stronghold, was the grand plan of Maj. Kearney's campaign, and the defeat and dispersion of the Indians followed as a consequence of its successful execution.

This movement at a favorable time would have been easily effected, but owing to rainy weather and high water at the commencement of the march, it was not to be achieved without labor and perseverance.

Following the course of the South Umpqua, Major Kearney, by making ferries at some crossings and opening roads over mountains to avoid others, was three laborious days in reaching a point on that river only about 20 miles east of the canyon, which as the road is good when the river is fordable, may be traveled with pack animals in five or six hours.

From this point the line of march crosses the South Umpqua (which here comes from a northeasterly direction) and takes up a large creek which heads southerly, following the course of this stream sometimes through fir timber, but most generally thro' prairie in the bottom, or over grassy oak hills along the westerly face of the mountain. In about 15 miles the creek forks and the route still keeping a south course takes up the ridge between them, which it follows to the summit of the mountain dividing the valleys of Rogue river and Umpqua, and descends to the latter valley between the branches of a tributary of and about 5 miles from the main Rogue river.

The route chosen by Maj. Kearney was an old Indian trail which evidently from time immemorial served as the line of communication between the valleys; like all Indian roads, it seeks the open rather than the direct way between the points, besides many steep and rocky places, which might be easily avoided; it passes over the highest peak of the mountain dividing the valleys, while it is evident that on both sides there are chasms (perhaps canyons) where a road might be opened many hundreds of feet lower than the path.

Lieut. Williamson, of the Corps of Engineers, estimates the length of the march as follows:  
From Knott's (mouth of canyon) to the leaving of South Umpqua, 20 miles (course east)  
To Rogue river, 30 " " south  
To ford on Rogue river (a good one) 10 " " "  
To camp Stuart (on the old road) 20 " " "

Which estimate differs but little from the estimated length of the present traveled route, but as Mr. Williamson found by actual measurement our estimated miles much too long, it is quite likely he would find the old road longer than it is estimated, besides which the opening of Maj. Kearney's route will shorten it several miles, which is now taken up in going around logs and other temporary obstructions.

I have therefore no hesitation in saying, that by taking a route more easterly than the present one through the Umpqua valley, so as to strike the head waters of Myrtle Creek, and from thence to cross over to the South Umpqua at or near the point where Maj. Kearney's route leaves

it, persons with horses bound to Shasta or other parts of California from Willamette, will save a day's travel and have as good a road as the present one, and further, that half the amount of labor bestowed upon the present road, will make of Maj. Kearney's route, a shorter and in all respects a better wagon road.

I must so far notice the military results of Maj. Kearney's plan as to say that aside from the death of the gallant Capt. Stuart, I consider the first collision with the Indians as very unfortunate, because had not this smaller body of Indians survived, I have no doubt the Maj. with unimpaired forces would have surprised their main body, in which event their power to do mischief would have been destroyed, and his judicious plan completely successful.  
A GENL.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.  
Office Indian Affairs, May 20, 1851.  
Sir—Your letter of the 11th of November, requesting instructions as to whether or not you shall investigate claims of Citizens of Oregon, for property destroyed by the Indians during the Cayuse war of 1847-48, has been received.

The Cayuse tribes not in the receipt of annuities from the Government, out of which they could be made to pay for claims against them—nor are there any funds in the Treasury at present applicable for the purpose. The claims even if admitted, therefore, could not be paid; yet it would be as well perhaps, in view of some provision being made hereafter by an appropriation by Congress, or treaty stipulation, to examine them as early as practicable, and then obviate the difficulty of procuring satisfactory and conclusive testimony, which must always grow out of delay or lapse of time. You are therefore, directed to investigate the claims and report thereon in accordance with the requirements of the Intercourse Act of 30th June 1834.

I will further remark that Congress passed an Act on the 14th February 1851, and appropriated the sum of \$100,000, to settle and meet the expenses of the people of Oregon in defending themselves against the brutalities of the Cayuse Indians in 1847-48, but it is presumed the cases you refer to are not included in its provisions. I enclose a copy of the Act.

Respectfully your old serv't,  
L. LEA, Commissioner.  
ANDREW DART Esq, Oregon City, Oregon.

An Act to settle and adjust the expenses of the people of Oregon in defending themselves from the attacks and barbarities of Cayuse Indians, in the years eighteen hundred and forty seven and eighteen hundred and forty eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized, and directed to settle the actual and necessary expenses incurred by the provisional government of Oregon in defending the people of said Territory from the attacks and hostilities of the Cayuse Indians, in the years eighteen hundred and forty seven and eighteen hundred and forty eight, upon the presentation by the Governor of said Territory to the said Secretary of the Treasury of a full accurate and detailed statement of the actual and necessary expenses of said defence and hostilities, accompanied by proper vouchers and an satisfactory proof of the correctness thereof, authenticated in conformity with the usages of the Department and (that) the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be and is hereby, appropriated to carry the provisions of this act into effect. Approved, February 14, 1851.

FROM THE PLAINS.—The St. Louis Republican of the 14th inst. announces the arrival in that city, direct from Fort Laramie, of Capt. S. Van Vliet, of the Quartermaster's Department. He was accompanied by his wife, a daughter of the lamented Maj. Brown.

Captain Van Vliet left Fort Laramie on the 26th of April, and made the trip across the Plains to Fort Leavenworth in seventeen days and a half. On the route they encountered two severe snow storms, which greatly impeded their progress. At the O'Fallen Bluffs they met a war party of the Cheyennes, who were going out to attack the Pawnees. The captain made them some presents of tobacco, and was treated kindly by them.