

Our Course

Since the first establishment of the Spectator in this territory, we have been... by nearly all persons of whatever party...

We have not, however, during the past year, been unmindful of the efforts of the Democratic party, or rather of its leaders...

We shall, therefore, in the future conduct of the Spectator, firmly and zealously maintain those principles of public policy which are held by the great Whig party...

It is we are aware quite an easy matter to edit a party newspaper, supporting candidates from our party, under all circumstances...

but to determine what measure should receive our support, is far more difficult. We shall be influenced by no factions...

Our columns will be open within the necessary limits heretofore made public, to communications upon all subjects of general interest and public importance.

The length of time our journal has been established here, and its constant efforts upon all occasions to promote the general welfare, are well known to our readers...

Democratic Party Organizing!

The so-called Democratic party, seem determined to continue their exertions to bring about the thorough organization of their party, without farther delay.

The good sense of this territory cannot be forced into the support of measures not approved by their own judgment and observation...

We publish to-day the proceedings of a public meeting held at Astoria, relative to the location question, and the course of Jno. Anderson, Esq., member of the Legislature from Clatsop County.

The propeller "Major Reading" is again running regularly between this city and Portland. Capt. Roanas, master, is well known to the travelling community...

The Willamette is very high, and the navigation of the river quite difficult. The present wet weather will probably keep it at its present height for some days.

Mail Facilities

We are frequently in receipt of letters from the Umpqua valley, complaining of the want of sufficient mail facilities in that part of the Territory...

No reference was had at that time to California, for we then had no possessions in that country, the sole object of the contract being to supply Oregon with mail communication.

They were unable to perform their contract, and assistance was granted them. California at this time having been ceded to the U. S. it was agreed by the Co. in consideration of the use of this money advanced to them...

These documents are addressed to the Congress of the United States, purport to be from the same body, and to express the wants and wishes of the same people.

"In Politics, we are democratic—Democrats we ever shall be; but still we shall not seek to excite party organizations."

"And we trust the movement ('Organization of the Democracy,') will be carried out with the enthusiasm and efficiency with which it was commenced...

Several communications are on file which we are unable to publish this week. They will be attended to in the order of their receipt.

Correspondence of the Spectator

The Memorial of the Legislators of Polk County—It is an ungrateful task to be a fault finder, or to take upon oneself the thankless office of a censor.

However "free and easy" we may be in all things in the west, there are certain proprieties to be observed in speaking and writing, that even we are hardly safe in disregarding.

These documents are addressed to the Congress of the United States, purport to be from the same body, and to express the wants and wishes of the same people.

The bodies addressed are the law making power of a great nation, as the happiness and prosperity of the people for whom they legislate depend upon the careful examination and prompt dispatch of their many subjects of deliberation...

In perfect keeping with their exalted and responsible stations, are their written and oral compositions; chaste and pure they flow with ease, not from liquid and sounding words, but from their aptness to the ideas, and the simplicity of their selection...

Correspondence of the Spectator

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(To be continued.)

Polk County—Its Dimensions, Resources, &c.

POLK COUNTY, O. T. Dec. 25th, 1851.

MEMORIAL

I have seen communications and editorials from and respecting almost every portion of Oregon, in some, or all of our public journals...

But for the encouragement of the new immigrant, and any who may have their minds turned towards the cultivation of Oregon soil, it is no doubt well to give public information occasionally...

As an instance of the fertility of the soil in this region, I will state that one of my neighboring farmers of undoubted veracity, informed me that last harvest he measured some heads of his oats...

Turnips frequently grow to the weight of 25 and 30 pounds. As to our other vegetable productions, we believe them fully equal to any we "read about."

I hope that the suggestion made by some of you editors below, respecting the formation of agricultural society, and its consequence—an annual Fair, may be kept before the public...

Perhaps one of these days I will give you a more minute geographical description of our country and its resources.

Respectfully yours, E.

Loss of the "Gen. Warren."

Information has just reached us of the loss of the propeller "Gen. Warren," near the mouth of the Columbia. She had about 70 passengers on board and a large quantity of freight...

Correspondence of the Spectator. Published in Lane Co.—Its Progress, General Improvements, &c. LANE COUNTY, O. T., Jan. 5, 1852.

MEMOR. EDITORS:—We have latterly been having some copious showers, of "twenty-four hours duration," by which all things without have been thoroughly drenched.

You will no doubt be pleased to hear something about the progress of trade and internal improvements in this county.

The beneficial effects of this improved method of transportation are beginning to be felt in various branches of business.

There is of course, a good deal of town making going on, particularly on paper. The "store," that notable place in the country, usually denotes the place of ground, on which hope has pictured a fair city.

The milling business, which all must regard as a principle interest in Oregon, is receiving a commendable degree of attention, by the enterprising citizens of this county.

The merchant mill, however, which is being put in operation by the Messrs. Montcith, of Albany, is deserving of a passing notice, as one of the very best flouring establishments in the Territory.

There is another improvement in this country that ought to be. Unfortunately, after long years of peace and quiet, we have a trio of worthless loafers quartered on the hospitalities of the country for the winter...

Read the letter from Polk County.