

OFFICE IN HINDERS BUILDING, NEXT DOOR WEST SCOTTSBURG HOUSE. SCOTTSBURG, OREGON. Thursday, August 9, 1855. G. D. R. BOYD EDITOR.

FOR STATE CONVENTION IN 1856.

Last Day! All those owing us for twelve months or more, who we know are able to pay us, are notified that if they don't send us the amount due by the 15th of August, we will put our accounts into the hands of an officer for collection.

The News—Knowing nothing explosion.

The news which arrived by last mail, a condensed report of which will be found in another column, is very important. The National Convention which convened at Philadelphia on the 14th of June, after a stormy session of about five days, effected a complete disorganization.

Grasshoppers.

The rapid strides of these pestiferous marauders had not yet slackened. In the upper part of this valley everything in the way of vegetables, have been entirely destroyed.

STATE GOVERNMENT.—We ask an attentive perusal of the able letter of Hon. DELAZON SMITH, upon the subject of State Government. We hope we may often hear from Mr. S. upon this and other subjects of public importance.

Much editorial and other matter intended for this No. has been crowded out to make room for the news brought by the last mail—of the National Know-nothing Convention, and the important and exciting news from Europe.

Fort Colville Gold Mines—Routes, &c.

From intelligence received by last mail from the north, we are led to believe that there is no doubt about the truth of the reports hitherto circulated in regard to the discovery of gold near Ft. Colville, Washington Territory.

The exact point of the recent gold discoveries is described to be on the Pen d'Oreille river, one of the tributaries of the Columbia. The waters of this stream pass through a lake of the same name, in latitude 48 deg. north, and flow on in a direction a little north of west, a distance of about 60 miles, and unite with the Columbia in latitude 48 deg. 15 north and longitude 118 deg. west.

Another route which is said to be very practicable, leaves the Columbia river at the mouth of the White Salmon river, about 18 miles above the Cascade falls, and continues up the valley of this river a distance of 15 miles, leading into an open country, which extends through the valley of the Clifton and Yakima rivers to a point of the Columbia north west of Walla Walla, called Mission or Priest's rapids, where is good crossing, and thence north by east to the mines.

From the above it would seem that the nearest and most practicable route from this valley to the mines, would be to proceed to Eugene City, and then follow the emigrant road across the Cascade mountains, and thence to the junction of the Walla Walla and Columbia rivers.

The War News.

Which we publish to-day, is more than usually important. The allies have gained complete possession of the sea of Azoff, captured the fortress of Kertch, and destroyed immense stores belonging to the Russians.

LEXINGTON.—L. L. Williams, Esq., of this place, presented us a fine piece of bear meat a few days since, for which he will please accept our thanks.

Again we are greatly indebted to S. J. McCormick, of the Pacific Express, and to Jas. O'Neil, of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, Portland, for forwarding us late files of papers by last mail.

Fresh beef is selling for 15 cents per lb. in Philadelphia.

State Convention.

Mr. Boyd—Sir—I perceive by the Gazette of the 7th inst. that you have declared "For Convention in 1856." I am glad you have done this; and I hope we shall hear soon from the press generally, throughout the Territory, upon this question, prior to the meeting of the Legislature, and not only from the press but from the people.

It cannot be denied that the vote of the past and present season, upon the question of State Government, will have a tendency to embarrass the action of the next Legislative Assembly in any proposed action upon that subject.

It may be urged in reply to the above suggestion, that a basis for Legislative opinion and action already exists in the fact that the proposition for a convention to frame a State Constitution has been presented to the people by two successive Legislatures, and as often voted down by the people.

When the question of a State government was submitted one year ago, the Democracy refused or neglected to make it a party issue.

This year, again many ardent friends of the measure gave it the go by under the—generally erroneous—supposition that they would thereby promote the success of their county and Legislative tickets.

It is evident that the result of the two last canvasses may be repeated again and again,—and this, too, without ever once fairly canvassing the merits or truly and justly deciding the question of a State government, if greedy local questions, or insolently rampant new issues are to be permitted to thwart the wishes or to direct from their purpose the real democracy of the Territory.

Last winter I introduced, in the Legislature, a bill which, had it passed and become a law, would have brought the question of a State government fully and fairly before the whole people.

With a large democratic majority in the Territory, and with so many cogent and conclusive reasons in favor of a State government, it is a shame that this senseless cry of the whig leaders should have been permitted to frighten so many democrats from their propriety, and that the question should have been defeated at all, under any circumstances.

The issue, or sought to avoid its discussion.

I have no faith in the sincerity of the whig leaders in their opposition to a State government. That they array themselves in opposition is most true. That they carp about taxation, &c., is equally true, but that they are honest in thus professing to state the real grounds of their opposition I do not believe.

Prior to the last election, when addressing a portion of the people of this county, I urged, in addition to many other considerations why we should act promptly and decisively in regard to a State government, the fact that on becoming a State we would be entitled to receive from the general government 500,000 acres of land; and that if we were expeditious about it we might select that amount of land east of the Cascade mountains, and incorporate that country into our new State.

Until we do become a State we may not hope to increase our population much, save by natural procreation. It would not be a surprising circumstance if Minnesota, Utah (barring her polygamy), New Mexico, Nebraska and Kansas, and even the country immediately east of the Cascade mountains, entered the Union, as States, in advance of Oregon!

The 50,000 people of Oregon own more land than any other 50,000 people—taken as a whole and promiscuously—on the globe! The farmers of Oregon own more cattle (and of greater value), than any other equal number of farmers—taken as a whole and promiscuously—on the globe!

How are we to explain or excuse our position, as a people, upon this question of an independent political existence? It needs some explanation and defence. For it is a curious fact in our history, that by turns the editors, orators, legislators and leaders of all parties in Oregon have, in times past, advocated either an independent national or a State government existence; or, at least, that the people be permitted to elect all officers of their local government!

Some democrats of Oregon (though professing to be personally in favor of) voted against a convention, because, (they say,) they were fearful the know-nothings might carry the day; in which event, they were fearful we might get a know-nothing constitution! Whist! Dryer, Chinn & Co. voted against a convention fearing we might have a "Durham" constitution! Now, I think the result of the late election,—as well as all those which have preceded it,—has pretty well established the fact that Oregon is Democratic! so well, indeed, that Dryer will actually come to believe that "democrat is a talismanic word" and timid democrats may venture to vote their real sentiments upon all questions!

Resolved, That the American party, having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be held in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts and violated pledges of either; that the systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties has elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril.

Resolved, That regarding it the highest duty to avow those opinions upon a subject so important, in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared as the sense of this National Council, that Congress possesses no power under the Constitution to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States or to exclude any State from admission into the Union because its Constitution does or does not recognize the institution of slavery as a part of her social system; and expressly preterminating any expressions of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any Territory. It is the sense of this National

of the number by which the proposition was defeated in the Territory!

In the foregoing allusions to whigs I do not wish to be understood as embracing all whigs. There are many honorable exceptions who are known and honest advocates of a State government.

The National Know Nothing Convention assembled at Philadelphia on the 5th June, and the result is the promulgation of two platforms—a split between the North and South, and the formation of two organizations. The effort to nationalize Know Nothingism has failed. The result has not surprised any one. From the action of the Northern Know Nothings, it was to be expected that a division would take place on the subject of slavery.

There has been a grand disorganization of the Know Nothing Order. The Northern members refuse to abide by the pro-slavery platform that was adopted last night. The Northern delegates to the American National Convention convened at 8 o'clock this morning, at the Guard House, for the purpose of organizing a Northern Order. The Hon. Henry Wilson was called to the chair, and H. M. McAbee was appointed secretary.

From the Herald, we take the following brief synopsis of the entire proceedings: "As was anticipated, upon the adoption of the majority report of the platform committee, the Abolition faction, led by Senator Wilson, bolted. Thursday they organized a separate meeting, and promulgated an address to the people, which we publish: The regular Convention, purged of its miscontents, proceeded with their business, and discussed the modifications to the ritual. A proposition to admit American Catholics to fellowship created a warm debate, and was finally defeated by a large majority.

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Council, that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the Territory of the United States, and that any interference by Congress with slavery, as it exists in the District of Columbia, would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the national faith.

Resolved, That the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was an infraction of the pledged faith of the nation, and that it should be restored; and if efforts to that end shall fail, Congress should refuse to admit any State tolerating slavery which shall be formed out of any portion of the Territory from which that institution was excluded by that Compromise.

The majority of slavery vote was adopted by the following vote: Ayes.—New York, Delaware, Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, California, Maryland—80.

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