

LAFAYETTE COURIER.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1873.

NOTICE.

Henceforward, until further notice, Frank C. Withers and Frank Owen are authorized to collect and receipt for subscriptions and advertisements and other business of this office. Other duties calling I shall devote but little attention to the paper in the future, for some time at least. April 18, 1873. J. H. UPTON.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

OREGON CITY, July 16, 1872.

In consequence of a vacancy in the Chairmanship of the Democratic State Central Committee, the undersigned, a member of that Committee for Clackamas county, would respectfully suggest that the members of said Committee meet at the city of Portland on Saturday, August 9th, 1873, for the purpose of making arrangements for the approaching special election for member of Congress and for the transaction of such other business as may be necessary.

W. L. WHITE.

Writ of Special Election.

To the Sheriffs of the several Counties within the State of Oregon: Whereas, At a general election held on the third day of June, A. D. 1872, the Hon. Joseph G. Wilson was duly elected Representative of the State of Oregon in the Forty-third Congress of the United States; and Whereas, Since the said election, said office has become vacant by the death of said incumbent; and

Whereas, By provision of the Constitution of the United States, and the laws of this State it has become the duty of the Governor thereof to issue his writ of election to fill such vacancy;

Now, therefore, I, L. F. GROVER, Governor of the State of Oregon, do hereby command you and each of you to notify the several Judges of Election within and for your several counties, to hold a special election of Representative in Congress to fill the vacancy aforesaid, on Monday the (13) thirteenth day of October, 1873, and that you cause all proper notices to be given thereof according to law.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State of Oregon, at Salem, this tenth day of July, A. D. 1873.

L. F. GROVER, Governor of the State of Oregon. S. F. CHADWICK, Secretary of the State of Oregon.

THE COURIER FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

THE COURIER will take a lively hand in the special campaign now opening, and it is our purpose to give it the broadest possible circulation. To this end a campaign subscription book has been opened, and the paper will be furnished to new subscribers until after the October election for FIFTY CENTS. To clubs of ten the paper will be furnished for \$4.00. Send in your orders accompanied with the price.

Another Offer.

THE COURIER will be furnished during the campaign to any Republican and all Republicans who will pay double the campaign price in the event of the election of a Democratic Congressman, the same to have it gratis in the event of the election of a Republican. Who will take a chance?

IN GREAT DEMAND.—The Daily Evening News, of Portland, was the first paper to reach this place containing the account of the Portland fire, and was, of course, in brisk demand during the afternoon of Sunday and forenoon of Monday.

C. B. Roland has been appointed postmaster at Jefferson.

The Prefect of Lyons has issued an order closing the public gardens in that city at 9 o'clock in the evening.

A mob near Frankfort, Kentucky, on Saturday night, killed a negro accused of an attempt to outrage a white woman.

THE WHITLOW-REESE CASE—THE TOWN TITLE.

In 1865 B. Whitlow purchased of Ben Hayden 200 acres of land more or less, within certain metes and bounds, the said track lying east of and adjoining Lafayette—the town-site line on the west of the tract being one of the lines mentioned in Whitlow's deed. Subsequent to his purchase, Whitlow had a survey made of his tract and found that it contained, instead of 200 acres the quantity he had paid so much per acre for, two hundred and twenty-two acres. About this time, one Mr. Reese purchased of the heirs of Joel Perkins what was computed to him at 70 acres more or less at so much per acre. He also got more land than he paid for. About seven years since, it was discovered that there was a tract of about 20 acres belonging to the Perkins estate still lying out of doors. This stray parcel laid between the Whitlow and Reese purchases, and, probably with a view to the utilization of all the land round about both Reese and Whitlow coveted the possession of this land—land to which neither of them had any more legal right than the man in the moon had. They went to law. After years of litigation, suspense and embarrassment, a decision of some sort has been reached in favor of Whitlow. It should be stated also that subsequent to the commencement of legal proceedings, Whitlow purchased from the wife of Joel Perkins a quit-claim deed to all of her possible possessions round about here, for which it is said he paid \$3,000. But for this purchase the victory gained in the courts had been an empty one, for the bone of contention would still belong to Perkins' widow.

Now, for some figures. The disputed tract, shut out as it is from any thoroughfare, is not worth to exceed \$300.00. The total value of the land will probably be equal to half the amount Whitlow has paid and must pay his attorney in the case. He has had to foot current cost bills and is liable for any that may yet remain unpaid. He is entitled, however, to recover back part of the costs from Reese; but it is said this cannot be done owing to the fact that Reese has nothing subject to execution.

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| State cost | 700 |
| Attorney's fees | 600 |
| Whitlow's time and annoyance | 250 |
| Paid to Mrs. Perkins | 350 |

Total.....\$1,950

The above sum of nineteen hundred dollars is balanced by Value of land acquired by suit.....\$300

This leaves the winner minus about \$1,600; so it will be seen that it pays to law.

As to the town-site, it is said that the points of law decided in this case impeach the town patent. We have not seen the decision. More about this in a future issue.

AND AGAIN.—Snyd., of the Reporter, has come to grief again. Last week he had a two-and-a-half column article clipped from an eastern paper put in type, proved, corrected, imposed, and lo! and behold, when his patent outside arrived by express, the self-same article was discovered to occupy a place on the first page! Here was a dilemma.

Lieutenant General Sheridan says the Indians who committed the depredations in Mud River Valley belong to the northern Cheyennes and Arrapahoes about Fort Fetterman, who were represented in the Peace Council at Red Cloud Agency.

FIRE IN PORTLAND.

Again the city of Portland has been visited with a destructive fire. It started in Hurgren & Slindler's large furniture ware-rooms on the corner of Salmon and First street and ran north along First street as far as Yamhill and on Front street, on the water side as far as Morrison street. E. J. Northrup's brick building on the opposite side of the street checked the progress of the fire at Yamhill street. It also extended south as far as Market street and back to Second street. Some twenty blocks were burned, on most of which were some very fine buildings. The fire was evidently the work of an incendiary. While the firemen were doing their best in the upper portion of the city another fire was started lower down, which was supposed to be the work of an incendiary. The punishment that these men should receive, if they are caught, should be as severe as the law will allow; for a man who would be guilty of such a crime would be guilty of any worse crime if it was possible. Hanging is too good for them.

The loss by the fire is estimated at from a million to a million and a quarter dollars. The amount of insurance will probably amount to about three hundred thousand dollars. A number of our own citizens are losers by the fire, among whom are Dr. Poppleton, Mr. D. Johnson and others whose names we could not learn.

Aid has been offered from different portions of the State and elsewhere.

A Little Suscol Ranch Affair.

[From the N. Y. Sun.] A transaction has just been brought to light in Minnesota which appears to be a repetition on a smaller scale of the iniquitous Suscol Ranch job in California, where Gen. Grant used his authority while acting as Secretary of War *ad interim* to hand over to a gang of speculators a military reservation belonging to the United States which was worth millions of dollars.

The St. Paul Dispatch of July 19 gives a full history of this affair. In Buchanan's time Secretary Floyd secretly contracted to sell the whole of the Fort Snelling Reservation to Franklin Steele for the sum of \$90,000, of which \$30,000 was to be paid in cash, and \$60,000 in two equal annual payments without interest. This coming to the knowledge of Congress, an investigation was had, and the sale was disapproved and declared illegal. Nevertheless in July following the fort, buildings and reservation were transferred by the Secretary of War to Steele, although the fort was and still remains a military post. The pretence under which the sale and transfer were made was the authority of a law providing for the sale of forts not required for military purposes. This law was lobbed through Congress after Jefferson Davis as Secretary of War had refused to sell the fort and reservation because they were needed for military use.

Steele made his first payment of \$30,000—the balance of \$60,000 he never paid, but instead set up a claim of damages against the Government. When the war broke out in 1861 persons in the interest of Steele succeeded in having Fort Snelling made the rendezvous for the State troops called into service, the use of the place having been tendered to the State authorities free of expense. Afterward, in January, 1862, an order was procured from the War Department in Washington designating Fort Snelling as the recruiting rendezvous of the State militia and volunteers. This was of great advantage to Steele, aside from the fact that it afforded him a pretence on which to base his claim for rent from the United States. The travel to and from the fort was enormous, and he derived a great income from his ferry. Strings of vehicles half a mile long were frequently seen waiting for ferriage, while buildings which Steele had erected on the reservation were bringing him in magnificent profits.

Time passed away, and the fort continued in use as a military post. Some efforts were made to induce the War Department to look favorably on the plot to grab this valuable property, but so long as Secretary Stanton remained in office his stern integrity rendered the attempts of the conspirators unavailing. Thus the matter rested until Grant came into office in 1868 and the reign of general corruption began. Then Steele came forward with a bill of \$162,000

against the Government for the rent of its own fort, which had been illegally transferred to him in defiance of Congress by Floyd; crediting on his bill the \$60,000 he should have paid in 1858. Secretary Belknap, the Dispatch says, allowed and paid this demand and then settled the land claim with Steele by taking back 1,000 acres of land on which the fort stands, and conveying to Steele 6,300 acres of land outside.

The law under which the original sale and transfer were directed by Floyd reserves the title until the whole purchase price is paid; consequently it required the ratification by the Grant Administration of Floyd's illegal transaction to give Steele any pretence of right to the possession of the property. It is said that Senator Ramsey of Minnesota aided Steele materially in his raid upon this Government property. Steele, it appears, had some unknown partners in this business, and in a recent division sale between the parties, one-half the property sold at auction for \$200,000; the remainder is worth quite as much more.

It was probably owing to Secretary Floyd's illegal attempt to dispose of the Fort Snelling Reservation that Congress in 1858 passed a law providing that no military reservation, except in the State of Florida, can be disposed of without special legislation of Congress—a law which was boldly defied by Grant and the General Land Office in the great Suscol Ranch surrender.

STATE NEWS.

Ice in La Grande is sold at one and a half cents a pound.

Capital Lodge of Good Templars at Salem has initiated 900 persons since its organization in 1865.

The Indians are selling a great many horses in Umatilla county, to a firm buying them for the Idaho market.

Burglars are still "hanging on the verge" of Salem, and almost every night somebody's house suffers from their inroads.

Indians stole two horses from a man living at the Meadows, Umatilla county, last week. One was a fine American horse of value.

The school house at Hillsboro is being rapidly pushed forward, and begins to present a nice appearance since its cupola is finished.

A small daughter of Rev. G. W. Adams, of Cove, Union county, attempted to jump from a buggy, when her foot caught on some portion of the buggy and she fell over, breaking her leg between the ankle and knee. She thus hung while the horses ran about 100 yards.

The man who placed a threshing machine cylinder on the railroad track, near Parson's mill, in Washington county, a few days since, bids fair to get away yet, notwithstanding certain parties thought they had caught him. The poor half-witted creature seems to have sense enough to know he has done wrong, and has taken to his heels.

All the persons in the Pendleton jail have given bail are now at liberty. A white man held on a charge of stealing, gave a thousand dollar bond and was turned loose by the Sheriff. Two Indians held on different charges, gave "leg bail" the other evening when the jailer went into the prison to lock them in their cells for the night.

Three soldiers went to a sort of a trading post which is kept this side of Burnt river, and while one of them threatened the man and wife with a revolver the other two helped themselves to the goods which were available. Two of the men afterwards deserted, and the other one was delivered to the authorities, and is now in confinement at Baker city.

The Sentinel says: "The Wolf Creek mines, situated about fifteen miles from La Grande, and owned by Green Arnold and others, have been thoroughly worked this season with the appliances at hand. Water is now scarce and instead of two but one hydraulic pipe is used. Mr. Arnold says he expects to do something handsome this fall when a general clean up is made. Success attend him."

At 12 o'clock on Friday, August 1st, in La Grande, W. W. Baker's residence was discovered to be on fire. Numerous people rushed to the spot, but for the want of water no steps could be taken towards subduing the flames. The people present in a very short time removed the most valuable articles in the house to a place of safety. Mr. Baker last year insured his residence for two thousand dollars, but the insurance expired on Monday last. The fire caught from a defective flue. The loss is estimated to be about \$2,500.

The cholera has appeared at Union Hill (N. J.), opposite New York. Two cases were reported, one of which proved fatal. One fatal case is reported at Pleasantville, on the Harlem railroad.

TERRITORIAL.

There is a population of 1,000 in Silver City, New Mexico.

A soldier named Erastus A. Smith committed suicide at Fort Steele, Wyoming Territory on Friday, August 1st.

Texas cattle are passing Denver northward every day. Several large herds are now en route to the Laramie plains.

A piece of coal weighing a ton fell upon a miner at Rock Springs, Wyoming, on Tuesday, and killed him instantly.

Money and women are reported scarce in Granada, the New Colorado town on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe road.

An excursion party of Eastern agricultural editors will be in Salt Lake on the 13th, and will remain two days, viewing the city.

The citizens of Whitman county, W. T., have subscribed 5,000 bushels of wheat toward the erection of a flouring mill at Colfax.

The Greeley Tribune says that a herd of three hundred California broncho ponies have recently been brought to Colorado from that State.

Over 150,000 pounds of wool have been shipped from Walla Walla this season. The price paid there has been from fourteen to eighteen cents per pound.

The Laramie Independent grieves because Wyoming has no Governor. It calls Gov. Campbell a mere nobody, and accuses him of sneaking off to Utah when his services were needed in Wyoming.

The best brands of flour are now sold in Walla Walla at the rate of \$3 per bbl., wholesale. The retail price is \$1 each for 50 pound sacks. No town in the world can boast of cheaper living.

The Brown shaft, at Lower Gold Hill, Utah, which has been abandoned for some time, has recently been found to contain the remains of human beings, supposed to have been murdered and thrown into the shaft for concealment.

Englishmen of rank and fortune will visit the Western plains during the coming season of sport. The Earl of Dunraven has already arrived, and secured the services of "Buffalo Bill," who accompanied him on previous occasions as guide.

Hon. Philip Ritz has received official notification of his appointment as Government Commissioner to inspect and receive the sixty-seven miles of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Mr. Ritz has accepted the appointment, and will at once forward his bond and official oath.

Seattle's actual offer for the terminus is valued by the editor of the Dispatch as follows: 750 town lots, \$150,000; 3,000 acres of land, \$300,000; 3 miles on Duwamish Bay, \$31,680; 4,800 feet of water front, \$480,000; \$200,000 city bonds at 80c, \$160,000; gold coin, \$50,000—total, \$1,171,680.

E. P. Burns, who left Laramie, Wyoming, early last spring, with what is known as the Lovejoy party, for Northwestern Colorado, on a prospecting tour, writes the Laramie Sentinel that the party have struck a series of placer and hydraulic diggings on Bear river. These mines, he says, extend along the river a distance of sixty miles, and have every indication of being very rich.

The Seattle Dispatch of July 31st says: "For the last two days the Trustees of the Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad and Transportation Co. have been in session through each day, and the entire clerical force at their command, have been constantly employed in receiving subscriptions and issuing certificates of stock, without being able to meet the demand. At a public meeting on Monday evening, the President announced that the Board had already received sufficient guarantees to determine them to put on a corps of engineers in the field, and as soon as practicable thereafter, contract for the building of ten miles of the road by the first of January next."

Franklin said: "When you run in debt you give another power over your liberty." Our old friend Franklin was a practical man, and uttered many wise and truthful sayings. They were truthful sayings in his day and are just as truthful now. Young men and young women, the golden rule of life is, "keep out of debt." If you have not the means to pay for beef, eat dry bread, but don't go in debt. If you can't pay for a silk dress, don't order it, but select a calico dress and plank down your cash, but don't go in debt.

Not less than thirty women are regularly employed upon the daily press of New York, says a correspondent, at a salaries of from \$20 to \$50 a week, and the number is increasing.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

No deaths from cholera were reported in Indianapolis on the 4th.

The Standard Oil Works, near the Long Island railroad depot, Hunter's Point, were on fire yesterday and blazing fiercely.

A railway accident occurred on Monday night between Ashton and Manchester (England), by which 18 persons were injured; none were killed outright.

A grand reception concert and ball will be given at the Ocean House, Long Branch, next Saturday evening for the benefit of the Portland (Oregon) sufferers. President Grant will be in attendance.

Reports from Onawa, Iowa, and points in the eastern part of the State, say that grasshoppers descended at noon on Saturday, and have entirely destroyed the corn and oats. The wheat is out of all danger. There will be fine crops.

Advices from Cadiz on the 4th, state that the United States steamer Shenandoah is in that harbor, and that she has ordered the frigate Villa de Madrid to abstain from hostilities. The frigate remains under the guns of the Shenandoah.

Mail advices from Cuba state that a severe engagement had taken place at Barancas, nine leagues from Manzanillo. The Spanish loss was severe. Thirty-seven wounded were taken to Manzanillo, and 27 to Venugitas.

A special from Montreal, dated August 6th, says a rumor was current Sunday and to-day that Sir John A. McDonald attempted suicide. Government organs deny the story. It is certain, however, that the Premier has been in a low state.

A terrible accident occurred at Butler, Pa., on Saturday. Three men were boring for oil and were in a well all the time the oil was struck. It scarcely reached the surface before taking fire, blazing up a hundred feet or more, and scorching the three men to death.

A letter has been received at the Treasury Department from the Collector of Customs at El Paso, Texas, stating that on July 13th a band of Mexicans forcibly seized 600 sheep under the protection of the post commander at Fort Quitman, which had previously been seized by our Collector for a violation of the law—and drove them into Mexico. This occurred within 99 miles from El Paso.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Victoria, Aug. 6.—The U. S. Revenue Cutter "Lincoln" arrived in the harbor last evening from Port Townsend. She is going north to search for further and more definite tidings as to the fate of the lost steamer "George S. Wright" and her missing people.

New York, Aug. 6.—Mr. Morton has addressed a letter to his associates on the Committee Privileges and Elections, appointing a full meeting of that Committee on the 1st of October, for the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, which shall effect a change in the mode of electing the President and Vice President. It is intended to give the sessions of the Committee in New York a public character, and several Constitutional lawyers and writers on this special subject will address the Committee.

San Diego, Aug. 6.—At Florence, Arizona, a party of fifteen Papago Indians, after drinking freely, broke into the house of a white man and stole all his provisions amounting to \$60 in money. The liquor was furnished by traders from Sonora. The Papagos when sober are the best Indians in Arizona.

No rain and lat crops are generally a failure.

UTAH.

Salt Lake, Aug. 6.—A new service was made on Brigham Young in the divorce suit last night. The case will be argued to-morrow before Judge Emerson.

A delegation of the City Council of Philadelphia arrived last evening. They were met at Ogden by Mayor Wells and a delegation of the City Council as guests of the City. This morning the party visited the principal points of interest in the city and left this afternoon for San Francisco, Yosemite and Sacramento.

To-day the reception here was entirely Mormon. No United States officials or gentiles were invited to participate.

"Utah" Butcher has been held without bail for the murder of the Colton family. At the close of the examination there was great excitement in the court room. Revolvers were drawn and a bloody scene threatened. Fortunately order was restored.

The loss by the fire in the Singer Company's new building, at Chicago, on Saturday night is now stated to be \$75,000.

Several Cuban families are at Saratoga. The ladies are conspicuous for their great beauty and magnificent toilets.