

LAFAYETTE COURIER.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1875.

MARION VERSUS YAMHILL.

Some years ago several interested parties began an action in the name of the State against the McMinnville Ditch Company for the purpose of annulling the corporation of the company. The case was taken to Marion county on a change of venue and there tried resulting in the annulling of the charter of the company. Marion county paid a portion of the costs, amounting to about \$600, and now wants Yamhill to reimburse. This claim was rejected by the former County Court. We understand that Marion county intends to present the claim a second time, and if it is rejected to bring an action, in which event they will probably get "busted" out.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

The Board of Immigration in an address to the people of Oregon makes the following good suggestions, and it would be well to make a move in this direction. It says: We would also recommend that every county seat arrange a committee of Immigration, to whose care we would forward immigrants for guidance and assistance; and that the people of every county raise funds among themselves to print a small pamphlet descriptive of the county's local advantages for settlers, and send the same to us for distribution abroad, on the steamers, and among the immigrants when they arrive. The county so contributing funds toward giving immigrants information of its lands, etc., in this way will secure entirely the benefit of its subscriptions.

Another suggestion is made by the Board: for everybody to give information of vacant situations or where employment can be obtained in the State.

STRAW BIDS.

The Postmaster-General has taken hold of the "straw bid" question in connection with some of the principal routes in the Western States and Territories with great earnestness, and his action a few days since in regard to the routes in this State may be taken as an index as to his course with all the rest. On investigation, he found that Ben Holladay, and Barlow Sanderson & Co., had been able to control immense contracts at high rates through a system of "straw bids," and he has informed them that while their bids for the next year's service in Oregon are the lowest responsible ones, he considers the price too high, and will not pay it; that he will not allow his Department to be hampered by what he knows full well is a ring. Thinking they had the Department at their mercy, the contractors coolly informed him that if he did not accept their terms they would discontinue the service. Not a bit alarmed therat, he replied that he should readvertise the route and see that responsible bidders got an opportunity to make honorable competition.

It would be well for the Postmaster-General to turn his attention to "straw bids" in other sections of the country, and see if some of the enormous frauds cannot be stopped. Let him look to Montana next.

We are in receipt of the Fourth Annual Catalogue of the Bishop Scott Grammar and Divinity School, Portland, Oregon for the year ending June 5th, 1874. The School has since the 1st of September last been under the management of the following officers: Rev. Geo. Burton, A. M., Head Master; Wm. M. Barker, A. B., Junior Master; Rev. A. Wixson, A. M., and J. G. Grant, Masters. The discipline and progress of the school during that time has been most satisfactory to all parties interested. There is an excellent library, a well stocked reading room, good apparatus for chemical and physical experiments, and also a large and well furnished gymnasium, connected with the institution. The next term begins February 1st, 1875. This is undoubtedly one of the best institutions of learning on the Pacific Coast and should receive a liberal patronage.

We would like to have Snyder answer why he has commenced suit to get the litigant printing if he did not want to "rob the widow and orphan."

NOTES AND NEWS.

The abolishment of capital punishment in Iowa has had as a result to increase the number of murders in that State two-fold, and the people are in favor of a return to the old law prescribing the death penalty.

The *Bulletin* is the only paper published in this State, so far as we have seen that unhesitatingly endorses the various publications. The enclosed address to the people of this State in regard to our immigration affairs.

The New York *Tribune* will contribute the Weekly or Semi-Weekly to those of its subscribers that live in the counties devastated by the grasshoppers, until the 1st of July without any remittance until that time.

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The hoodlum element of McMinnville—well supplied with tangle-leg whisky—made the night hideous last Wednesday. About fifteen of them were piled up in a four-horse sleigh. A band of Camanche Indians would have fled in fear of the yell made by this party of gentlemen (?) as they swung around the circle. Many of the boys in the party were like poor Tray.

It is said that the inaugural ceremonies of Governor Tilden were notably simple and in good taste. There was no occasion for enthusiasm or excitement of any kind. Governor Dix retired and Governor Tilden came in with equal grace and dignity, and in the exchange of personal courtesies between them the bearing of the gentleman in politics was pleasingly illustrated. Governor Dix retires with a clear record of a faithful public servant. The people of New York have an abiding confidence that the new Governor will do the same when his term shall have expired.

PROFESSION AND PRACTICE.

After the November election we were told that as soon as Congress met, the Republican majority would enter upon the work of reform with a view of reinstating their party in the confidence of the people.

Well, it is now more than a month since the meeting of Congress, and what has been done toward this reinstatement?

The most important event is the culmination of the Louisiana villainy; and so far the Republicans in Congress have consented to every part of it.

Next, they have shown their zeal for reform by refusing to investigate the safe burglary conspiracy, because they felt certain that such an investigation would implicate Boss Grant.

Finally they have passed through the Senate Sherman's humbug bill for the inflation of the currency; and these things are all that they have done toward the regeneration of their decayed and bankrupt party.—*Sun.*

STATE BOARD OF IMMIGRATION

Address of the Commissioners—A Statement of Affairs—Various Recommendations—Matters of Great Importance to the State.

To THE EDITORS OF THE VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS OF OREGON—Gentlemen: I am directed by this Board to ask you kindly to insert in your various publications the enclosed address to the people of this State in regard to our immigration affairs.

Next to our railroad connection (with the East) comes our immigration interests. Whatever political opinions you may all entertain, we feel that one and all of you are united upon the necessity of immigration, and hence we desire to ask you to lend your influence in co-operating with us in carrying out the objects we have in view. Every section of this State will be benefited by a flow of immigration. California is making gigantic efforts to disseminate her advantages for settlement to our citizens in the Eastern States and to the European nations. We, unfortunately, as an Immigration Board, have no funds like those which California has voted for immigration purposes, and hence find it "up hill work" to push this State's interests abroad. But, by one and all of you stirring up the people to the necessity of contributing liberally to the immigration fund, we may yet be able to cope with California in making Oregon's resources known abroad. Public spirit if fully aroused to the advantages of immigration, may do more for the cause than ever the State could have done had the Legislature voted us (which it did not) sufficient funds to carry on the immigration interests of Oregon. I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant, WM. RIED, A State Commissioner of Immigration.

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ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

TO THE PEOPLE OF OREGON.—Entrusted by the people to take charge of immigration arriving in the State, and of inducing immigration from foreign countries to Oregon, without funds to enable us to do so, we are compelled to rely on the generosity of the public and solicit subscriptions for the objects we have in view.

The many letters we have received from sister States and foreign countries satisfy us that by carefully disseminating information abroad as to Oregon, and selecting for that purpose honorary State Commissioners in those countries a large immigration would result. Thousands in Europe and the United States are looking for a country with a combination of advantages such as we possess; and who if their attention was directed to Oregon, would come and settle amongst us. From Great Britain, we are informed by one of the gentlemen lately appointed an immigration commissioner, and who recently visited us, that many of the small farmers with means are desiring authentic information about Oregon but cannot procure the same. Again, complaints are made that when immigrants do arrive amongst us, we give them neither attention, guidance nor information; and do not tell them where to get Governmental or farm lands; and, as a natural consequence they discourage their friends, who, would have followed them from coming here. In every overland train on the Pacific Railway there are on board a number of immigrants destined for Oregon who are turned back in California for want of authentic information about our State. From New Zealand and Australia—Great Britain's colonies—we have also letters inquiring as to our country. It is to supply these wants and to attend to immigration generally, that we, at the Governor's request, accept office as Honorary Immigration Commissioners. But while we and the Committee of Immigration, appointed by the Board of Trade to assist us, do cheerfully give our services gratuitously, cannot, nevertheless, carry on an immigration scheme for the benefit of this State without funds. Already we have had appointed Emigration Commissioners in a few foreign countries, who are crying out for printed matter, statistics, pamphlets, etc. These we cannot supply without money, and seeing toward the objects in view, we must appeal to the citizens of Oregon to contribute liberally.

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