THE ASHLAND TIDINGS

FRIDAY.....NOVEMBER 29 1878.

THE ASHLAND ACADEMY.

For sometime past the financial condition of the academy has not been as satisfactory as could be desired. The business of the school has been a paying one, but the trouble has been in the ownership of the building and grounds. The property is heavily mortgaged, and the mortgagees, in order to secure themselves against loss, have recently entered judgment, but no forced sale will be made. There has been some discussion in town over the proposition to purchase the property for the town, and use the building for the district school, but, no property-owner in Ashland entertained the idea in earnest for a moment. The proposition was probably made by some one who was shrewd enough to know that this was just the way to awaken the citizens to their true interests in the matter, and the result has proven his sagacity. At the meeting held in the school house last Saturday evening, the curiosity of everyone was aroused to discover who would favor such a project, and it soon leaked out that the community was in unanimous opposition to it. It brought the matter to an issue, however, and the citizens of Ashland showed that they realize the vital interests they have at stake in the maintenance and improvement of the academy. They realize that no other institution has done so much toward building up the town, or contributes so much material support to-day, as the academy; they fully appreciate the fact that the loss in coin involved in its closure would be brought directly home to the pocket of everyone who has any interest whatever in the town; they see that the welfare, not only of the town, but of the people everywhere who patronize the academy, is involved—for no other town in Oregon is so peculiarly fitted for the location of such an educational institution as Ashland, and parents are willing to send their children here, while they would fear to trust them from their care in other towns. With the double incentive, therefore, of direct pecuniary interest and solicitude for the welfare of the young people of the town and surrounding country, they resolved to place the academy upon a footing that will secure its permanency beyond a peradventure, and allow of its improvement and advancement in every respect.

Sometime ago articles of incorporation were secured by Messrs. Levi and Quin Willitts and Prof. Leeke, of a stock company for the purchase of the property. Under the articles of incorporation, the number of stock-holders is not limited, and it was decided at the recent meeting that the most feasible plan of procedure in the matter is to enlarge the company so as to include all who may wish to take stock. For this purpose a subscription book has been opened, and a number of leading citizens have already subscribed. The shares are placed at a low figure, and will doubtless soon be all taken. As soon as the full amount of stock is subscribed for, the property will be purchased and the new arrangement begun.

When the company take posession of the academy, such alterations and improvements as may be required will, of course, be made, and everything done to keep the institution one of the best of its class.

FRUIT DRYING.

The business of drying fruit for market, has grown into one of the most important agricultural industries within a very few years. The idea of drying of drying apples, peaches, pears, and similar fruit, in any considerable quantities was not thought of by the farmer until within the last decade. Most every one whose early life was spent on a New England farm, will remember the long strings of quarters of apples spread in the sun to dry on clear autumn days, for use in the household during winter months to follow. And if fate compelled him or her to assist in paring and cutting, will realize how preposterous it would have been to think of making a business of preparing dried apples for market. All this is changed now. The drying machines now in use are capable of transforming the products of the largest orchards into a staple article of commerce. The demand for dried fruits has kept pace with the increasing supply, and hundreds of bushels of apples, pears and peaches are dried to-day, where five or ten years ago but a few quarts were saved from the orchard waste.

This opens up a new field for the enterprising farmer in regions adapted to fruit growing, and many have already added largely to their annual income by taking advantage of it. Southern Oregon has a national, and well earned, fame for producing fine fruit, and her hillsides will soon be dotted more thickly than now with thrifty and profitable orchards.

The many apples going to waste in our fertile valley have suggested this article. The home demand for dried fruit is considerable, and the market in the region east of the mountains would consume a large quantity, if it were properly prepared and shipped. Whether the present shipping facilities would allow of a profitable export trade, we are not fully assured, but the price received here, is much higher than in the trade centres of commerce, and it would pay well to dry apples at half the price they brought the present year. We have no hesitation in saying that if the price were lowered one-half, the demand would be at least doubled, so there is room right here at home for twice the business in this line that is being done now, It would pay our farmers to consider the matter, and where a number can join and purchase a patent dryer, they will find it to their advantage to do so.

WAR AGAIN.

There seems to be scarcely a possibility of Europe escaping another struggle between the two great interests which are clashing, and will be in continual contest until either England or Russia obtains the supremacy. England has invaded Afghanistan with an army, and a battle has been fought. The policy of Russia will compel her to assist the Afghans, and another general war will result.

Afghanistan lies between British India and Russian Territory, and has been jealously watched by England ever since Russia became aggressive in conquest. A few years ago the Khanate of Khiva was subjugated by the Czar of Russia, and the Ameer of Afghanistan, becoming alarmed for his own independence, sought and obtained assurance of protection from the British government. Since then, however, he has become offended at the refusal of the British to acceed to certain requests for aid and and alliance against Russia, and the Russians have improved the opportunity to secure his friendship. The recent war and the probability of a renewal of hostilities have forced England to take measures for obtaining control of Afghanistan and thus render India secure from invasion. Overtures were made to the Ameer, but he obstinately refused to treat with England, and plainly evinced a desire to favor Russia. The result of negotations is war; and Russia will doubtless come to the front with money and troops to aid the Ameer. The prospect is dark, indeed, and there is little doubt that Europe is on the eve of a war even more horrible and disastrous than the one from which the smoke of battle has scarcely cleared away, while the bones of its victims have not yet been bared by the vulture and the hyena.

INDIAN POLICY.

The Indian affairs of the nation are receiving a good airing, and the result will doubtless be benefit and improvement in the policy of the government, or at least greater efficiency in the service. Secretary Shurz, of the Interior Department, has adopted a vigorous, policy, and has been actively engaged in efforts to purify the Indian service. Sherman and Sheridan have criticized him severely, and he is defending himself and his policy in a manner which proves his ability to cope with far abler opponents than have attacked him yet. However the contest between the departments may terminate, good will certainly result from the agitation of the question.

DOWN AGAIN

The stock market in San Francisco is again in a prostrated condition. The recent excitement and buoyancy was exceedingly short-lived, and, as was expected by those who have watched the San Francisco stock board in the past, was followed by a sudden collapse. As a consequence, the majority lose heavily, of course, and those in the ring have made money, and will begin preparations for a new deal.

New Pamphlet.

Rev. Geo H. Atkinson, has had printed and published in pamphlet form a series of very interesting articles on the Northwest Coast, including Oregon, Washington and Idaho. As a concise exhibit of this vast country it is a work of uncommon excellence. The writer was one of the earlest settlers in Oregon Territory and has occupied a prominent position as a divine and a writer. His means for information were the best and his manner of compiling is concise, instructive and entertaining. Every resident of Oregon and Washington should send a copy of the pamphlet to friends in the East as it answers conclusively almost every question proponded about the country, while the character of the writer is a guarantee that nothing is over stated or misrepresented.—Portland *Bee*.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

Edward S Stokes of Fisk fame, will return to San Francisco shortly, for permanent residence.

R. W. Thompson, treasurer of Boise county, Idaho, committed suicide. Cause unknown.

Thos H. Power, one of the richest men of Philadelphia, died on the 20th. He was worth $10 000,000.

M Gambetta and M. DeFourton, of the French Chamber of Deputies, fought a bloodless duel with pistols, last week.

The valley of the Canca, in New Granda has suffered greatly from the ravages of grasshoppers, and untold distress will result.

The last annual report of the directors of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad show the net earnings for the past year to be $1,938,332.

An explosion occurred in a coal mine at Sullivan Indiana, on the 22d, by which thirteen men were killed outright, and eight or ten wounded.

Eight young men left Hartford last August to nurse yellow fever sufferers in the south. Harry Brooks, the only survivor, has returned home.

After the reassembling of Congress, the Potter investigation will be renewed, and it is likely the celebrated cipher dispatches will be called for.

It is proposed to establish a line of steamships between New York and China, via England, to compete with the Pacific railroads for the Eastern trade.

The President will make the Southern question a leading feature of his message, and will dwell especially upon the enforcement of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

The total value of the product of thirty-six Pacific coast mines in October is $2,250,078. This is the smallest aggregate for the year, being $100,000 less than in September.

James R. Keen, a prominent Wall Street operator and well known on this coast, has made a corner on spring wheat, having bought up about 5 000,000 bushels, chiefly in the Chicago market.

Chas. W. Angell, the defaulting secretary of the Pullman Palace Car company has been arrested at Lisbon, Portugal and $81,000, of the $120,000 which he had stolen was found upon his person.

A detachment of the U. S. revenue force was attacked and overpowered by a mob of armed men in South Carolina, last week. None of them were injured, but their lives were threatened, and they were ordered to to leave the country.

The Grand Jury in the U S. court has indicted eight U. S. officials at Chicago for conspiracy to defraud the government in connection with the construction of the Chicago custom house, out of $850,000, by means of fraudulent vouchers.

The settlers on the 12 000 acres in Hicks valley, Marin county Cal. formerly in possession of J. McBlowen, and recently found to belong to the government, were arrested recently and taken to San Rafel for trial for turning Brown's cattle off their claims and guarding the gates to keep them off.

The Furness Iron and Steel Company, at Barron, in Furness, England, have determined to close their iron mines at Greenside and Goldwire in consequence of depression in the iron trade. Two thousand men will thus be thrown out of employment. Several other pits are likely to close.

An attempt was made to assasinate King Humbert of Italy, on the 17th inst. As he was entering Naples in a carriage with the Queen their son and the chief minister, a man sprang at him with a drawn dagger, and succeeded in inflicting a slight scratch upon his arm. The would-be assassin was secured by attendants ere he could do any harm. He denied belonging to any secret society, but it is known he is a Socialist.

The estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury for the support of the Government for the fiscal year ending June, 1880, are, other than for permanent annual appropriations, $129,297,812; for permanent annual appropriations. $111,939,438. These estimates show a reduction of $5,551,545 from those of 1879. Among the decreased sums asked for is $3,292 000, for rivers and harbors, against $8,307,000 for the present fiscal year.

The volcanoes of Ycalco and Santa Anna in Central America are both in active eruption. On the latter, from four or five openings, apparently distinct, fire, smoke and ashes are pouring fourth in vast columns. For miles around ashes are falling and the air is filled with smoke, making the scene gloomy and terrifying the inhabitants in the neighboring villiages, Many have fled to places of safety. A terrible earthquake also occurred recently in the southern portion of San Salvador, resulting in much destruction of property and life.

The estimates for the support of the navy for the next fiscal year are about the same as the sum appropriated during the last session by congress, viz: about $14,000 000. The report of the secretary will show that appropriations have not only been confined within their proper limits, but there is a small balance to the credit of the naval academy and marine corps, and unless congress shall order the building of new vessels, the secretary, with the means asked for, can render those we now have more efficient, and keep them in good repair. Our navy is in much better condition than a year ago, and is well adapted to peace establishments. Even in case of war with a foreign power, 90 vessels for hostile purposes could at once be supplied. These include 15 monitors and 6 frigates for coast defense, together with two efficient torpedo boats

Forty thousand cases of yellow fever in New Orleans, a city not as large as San Francisco, all inside of four months, is a terrible scourge.

The latest official enumeration gives the total number of Federal officeholders of all kinds and degrees as 85 880.