

# The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

The only Republican Daily Newspaper on Wasco County.

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

FRIDAY - JANUARY 21, 1898

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

California celebrated Tuesday the fiftieth anniversary of James W. Marshall's discovery of gold in Sutter's millrace Coloma. Marshall went to California in 1844, served throughout the Bear Flag war, which established the independence of California, and entered the service of General John A. Sutter. On January 18, 1848, while superintending the construction of a millrace, he found a nugget of gold. He collected several ounces of the precious metal and took it to Sutter's fort. The news spread like a prairie fire and brought a rush of gold seekers to Coloma, who seized Marshall's stock and property and divided his land in town lots. It was an unhappy day for him when he detected the gleam of the yellow ore, as it started conditions which reduced him to poverty.

The claim that Marshall was the first discoverer of gold in California has been disputed, says the Spokesman-Review, with much historic force and evidence. In his fourth annual message to congress, December 5, 1848, President Polk treated at length the rush to the California gold fields. "It was known that mines of the precious metals existed to a considerable extent in California at the time of its acquisition," says that message. Marshall's discovery was made nearly two years after the occupation of California by the military and naval forces of the United States. "Recent discoveries," continues the message, "render it probable that these mines are more extensive and valuable than was anticipated. The accounts of the abundance of gold in that territory are of such an extraordinary character as would scarcely command belief were they not corroborated by the authentic reports of officers in the public service who have visited the mineral district. Reluctant to credit the reports in general circulation as to the quantity of gold, the officer commanding our forces in California visited the mineral district in July last for the purpose of obtaining accurate information on the subject.

"The effects produced by the discovery of these rich mineral deposits, and the success which has attended the labors of those who have resorted to them, have produced a surprising change in the state of affairs in California. Labor commands an exorbitant price, and all other pursuits but that of searching for the precious metal have been abandoned. Nearly the whole of the male population of the country have gone to the gold districts. Ships arriving on the coast are deserted by their crews and their voyages suspended for want of sailors. Our commanding officer there entertains apprehensions that soldiers cannot be kept in the public service without a large increase of pay."

Here is a definite official statement, made in a presidential message to congress, where statements of fact are always weighed with the greatest care, that the existence of gold in California was known prior to Marshall's discovery. Nevertheless it was Marshall's discovery which sent the thrilling news around the world. Speaking exactly, he was not the original discoverer of gold, but practically his was the discovery, and his memory is entitled to the credit.

The Commercial Club acted wisely last evening in deciding to invite the sheep growers to hold a convention in The Dalles. Such a meeting will call attention to the importance of this city as a wool shipping point, and may indirectly lead to the es-

tablishment here of some industry connected with the manufacture of woolen fabrics. The committee which the president of the club is to appoint, will use its best endeavors to make the arrangements insure the success of the convention, and as citizens we should all lend a helping hand to the same end. In this connection it may be said that the time has come when The Dalles must take a step forward or backward; to remain still is impossible. The best move in this direction is the establishment of a woolen and scouring mill. In the coming convention this proposition should be stated and its merits earnestly advocated.

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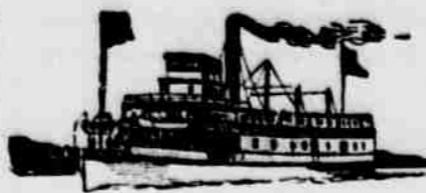
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Strayed.

Strayed from Dufur, Or., about the last of July, two bay horses, of about 1000 pounds weight, both geldings; on a light bay, branded S on right hip; the other a dark bay, branded HF (connected) on left shoulder. Information leading to the recovery of either, or both, of these horses will be rewarded by the owner.  
REV. JOHN EVANS,  
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