

# WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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**NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.**  
The date appearing after the printed name on the paper is the date of the EXPIRATION of subscription.

## The Modoc War.

### Another Fight—41 Soldiers Killed and Wounded!

Yreka, April 29.—The following dispatch was received at 4 o'clock this morning:

"In the Lava Bed, April 18.—No Indians having been seen during the past two days, Gen. Gillem sent out a reconnoitering party on the 26th, consisting of Company E, 12th Infantry, under the command of Col. Wright, Batteries K and A, 4th Artillery, under Lieut. Howe, Lieut. Harris and Lieut. Cranston, the whole party under command of Major Thomas. About 11 o'clock in the morning, they reached Gravel Mound, about three miles south of the old stronghold, where they received a volley from a ledge of rocks.

The fire was returned by our men and they then retreated and rallied by troops. The Indians ran around the bluff and came in front and opened fire upon A and K Batteries, Fourth Artillery. The Infantry Company was then ordered to fall back but failed to halt and left the position demoralized. The Company commander and his non-commissioned staff kept their position but the men kept up their retreat.

After the troops fell back the Modocs came and took up the position that was to have been held by our troops, thus surrounding those left. At this time the Warm Spring Indians, ten in number, came up in the rear of the Modocs and held them down to the rocks for a while till they shifted about and gained a position that made the small cover of Major Thomas and others worthless, and here they did the fatal work of the day. From this point they succeeded in killing Major Thomas, Lieut. Howe, Sergeant Romer and two privates, and wounding Assistant Surgeon Zemig. During this time Lieut. Wright and the men who staid with him were slain as fast as they showed their heads above the rocks. Wright was shot in the breast. Five of his men were shot dead and two wounded.

The troops in camp were in arms by this time. Orders were given the Warm Spring Indians to move immediately to the scene of action. Col. Mason was ordered to have all his troops that could leave start immediately. Troops K, H and F had already started from this side. The ground is so rough that the troops did not reach the battle ground till night, and they could do nothing but lay upon their arms. About midnight three wounded men came in and reported all clear in front, and all killed and wounded except three or four privates.

Our troops were aroused and an advance made for a short distance, and they then rested for the night. At daylight, Major Green sent a party of skirmishers who found the packer, Louis Weber and two soldiers of another party in a sage thicket. Maj. Thomas, Lieutenant Howe, Surgeon Remig, three Sergeants, and four privates all killed or wounded. Lt. Wright and men were found upon the extreme left. Lieut. Cranston and five men are still missing and are supposed killed. The following is the list of killed and wounded, as far as can be ascertained at present: killed—Maj. Thomas, Lieut. Howe, Sergeant Romes, Lieut. Wright, ten privates, one citizen, a packer named Louis Weber.

Wounded—Assistant Surgeon Zemig, Lieut. Harris and 19 privates. Missing—Lieut. Cranston and five men.

Out of 65 men that went out, 41 are killed, wounded and missing.

Gen. Gillem's force proceeded to the cave and were fighting when the courier left.

Yreka, April 18.—Gen. Jeff C. Davis, Col. Hardie, Col. Sumner and Maj. Lydecker, arrived this evening from the south. They will leave at 7 o'clock in the morning for Ball's, where an escort waits to take them to Headquarters.

Maj. Biddle and W. D. Fox, (N. Y. Herald correspondent) arrived from the front this evening. They bring no important news, though the prevailing opinion at the front was that there will be no more severe fighting.

Yreka, April 30.—Considerable excitement exists through this section in regard to the Indian troubles and great uneasiness is felt, especially by those living on the outside ranches. All kinds of rumors are afloat regarding the Indians breaking from reservations, but none of them can be traced to any reliable source. Lieut. Kingsbury, of Company E, 12th Infantry, and four men, arrived this evening from Fort Gaston, en route to the lava-beds, with heavy baggage belonging to that company. He reports all generally quiet among the Indians at Hoopa valley and on the lower Klamath, though sometimes they get a little disorderly.

Gen. Davis and staff left at 7 o'clock this morning for the front.

The epizootic is still prevalent to a great extent. The horses first taken are recovering. We have heard of no fatal cases, though many teams running in expresses to and from the front have had hard trips.

The remains of the officers killed in the late battle at the lava-bed were expected to arrive here to-day, but up to this hour (9 a. m.) have not arrived nor have we any later advices from the Modoc expedition.

Yreka, May 1.—Captain Silva and W. S. Johnson arrived from the front this afternoon. They left general Gillem's camp on Tuesday morning. We learn that there has been nothing done since the battle of the 26th. Everything quiet. No future policy of fighting the Modocs is settled upon. The opinion prevailed that it was perfect folly to attempt to whip the Modocs in the manner thus far pursued. No scouting has been done and eight bodies are known to still lie upon the field of battle. Captain Mendenhall's command arrived at camp south of Tule Lake on the 28th.

### From Eastern Oregon.

Walla Walla, April 28.—The following news was brought in by a person who got it from Mrs. Cook, who was informed by a friendly Indian. 1,400 warriors are camped at White Bluffs, putting up breastworks—two and a half miles already finished.

The residents living in the Yakima are very much frightened. Left Cook's Ferry on the Yakima Thursday, 22d. Mrs. Cook was alone and very much frightened. The Indians have left the reservation.

From Mr. O'Neil, just down from Colville, we learn that the Spokane Indians are very saucy and impudent. They are going around in bands of fifteen to twenty with war paint on, notifying the settlers to leave.

Geary, who is an educated "cuss," had a notice, written by himself, served on the settlers, telling them the land they were settled on was his, and he wanted them to go away. The settlers are greatly frightened, not knowing what the Indians may do.

### NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Toronto, April 28.—A special from Fort Garry, Manitoba, reports from the interior of the State that there has been fighting between the American troops and the Blackfeet Indians. A large number of the Americans were killed. It is feared this is the beginning of trouble in the Blackfoot country. The Indians of Fort Tully are those who crossed the line to the number of seven or eight thousand, and threaten the interior settlements and Manitoba.

New York, April 29.—The Indian Commissioners, in their discussion last night thought the most important field was among the Sioux Indians, who number about 35,000, may be disposed to give trouble if satisfactory arrangements are not made with them in regard to the Northern Pacific Railroad. Spotted Bull's band are restless because of the recent murder of some of his chiefs. A rising is feared in the Black Hills and Powder River country, should a new expedition organize to seek to open that country. The Commissioners will have a counsel with the Nez Percés in the summer, and do not expect trouble

with them; neither do they expect trouble with the Klamaths, Snakes or other Indians in the Modoc country.

Commissioner Duncan has succeeded in exciting the opposition of sailor boardinghouses to an extent almost to paralyze the commerce of the port. Vessels with valuable cargoes on board have been detained more than a week. There is no prospect of getting crews. The Commissioner has telegraphed to the Commissioners in Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore to send along seamen by railroad, but the boarding-house keepers there decline to furnish men; hence none have come.

New York, April 29.—A New Orleans dispatch says the detachment of the Metropolitan Brigade which was sent to Livingston Parish met with strong resistance all along the line. A courier states that fighting commenced on Sunday morning, and he heard the booming of cannon during the day. The force of armed citizens in the field is said to be four hundred.

Brownsville, April 29.—Secretary Belknap, Sheridan and party left to-day by steamer for New Orleans, via Galveston; they are expected to reach New Orleans by Wednesday. The visit of these officers to this section has created the best of feeling among the people, who regarded it as evidence that the Government takes an interest in frontier affairs.

Cheyenne, April 30.—A storm commenced here about 6 o'clock this morning. It extends east as far as Grand Island, Neb. The train from the East arrived six hours late. Nothing is known of the condition of the railroad or telegraph lines east of the North Platte. The weather is moderating. Communication will be re-established early to-morrow.

Charleston, April 27.—Advices from neighboring coast sections report disastrous results to the crops from the killing by frost yesterday morning. Much cotton will have to be replanted. The injury to early vegetables is irreparable. A frost so late in the season has not occurred in this section for 50 years.

### EUROPEAN.

London, April 29.—Wm. Charles Maerendy, the well-known English actor, is dead; aged 80.

Mr. Hawkins, prosecutor of the Tichborne perjury case, to-day concluded his opening address, which he commenced on Wednesday last.

Ten thousand emigrants left Liverpool last week for the United States. Vienna, April 29.—American scandal still occasions great excitement in aristocratic circles and is discussed with sneers as another indication of the working of Democratic institutions.

General Meyer, acting under advice of counsel, refuses to surrender his official papers, with the list of exhibitors and allotment of space. The new Commissioners are completely hampered, and will probably request the interference of the Austrian Government. Dr. Susper, another of the suspended Commissioners, has left for Switzerland. Van Buren is still here.

SOUTHERN OREGON.—The Roseburg *Patrolman* is jubilant over the development of the lime quarries of Douglas County. Hereafter Oregon need not import lime. In the same quarries is found an excellent quality of blue and white marble, which is capable of receiving a very high polish, and will make a very superior quality of building stone, especially for caps, sills and mantels, the introduction of which will make a decided improvement in the appearance of both public and private buildings.

Says the *Roseburg Patrolman*: We learn that a contract for 2,000 barrels of lime for the State Capitol has been let to the two companies at this place—1,000 barrels to each. We also learn that Marks & Cooper have the contract for supplying the lime for the State University at Eugene City.

The "black mud" of the Umpqua has always been a terror to travelers. During the present year \$25,000 will be expended on the principal road through that valley, between Wilbur and Canyonville.

### The Wool Market.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

The high prices of wool of last year have been variously commented upon with a view to various results. No candid man will however deny that time among speculators had much to do with "fancy prices" then obtained. Yet that it was altogether fancy, many who are equally candid are equally slow to admit.

The steady advance of wool and mutton consumption, both in our own and foreign markets, together with the impetus then given it by the Franco-Prussian war, could not well hinder a substantial and rapid advance.

It was the prospect of this advance which spurred our speculators to such energetic action, and of course, as is generally the case, were not satisfied with reasonable enterprise, but enhanced the wool market much above its absolute worth at that time. In consequence we commence our spring trade, not with fair and candid jobbers, but with men under instructions from sore-headed speculators who are ready to use any pretext to depress the local trade, in order that they may call back into their money bags the results of their gross oversight in this direction last year.

It is to be regretted that wool-growers are not organized to resist such encroachments for such dishonest result. As it is, wool-growers must be very watchful of their interests. Especially should they not be tempted with the first offers that are made.—If parties are foolish enough to open the trade at 20 cents, let such offers slip. While Oregon wool is quoted at 50 and 55 cents in New York, with every indication of a thriving and ready trade, why should we not have here in Oregon at least 35 cents as the produce price? Will not 15 to 20 cents per pound, pay the money exchange and freights from here to New York and leave a proper and sufficient balance for profits? I am inclined to think it will. At least we should be in no hurry to pay from 30 to 40 cents for such expenses, which we would be doing by accepting offers of 20 cents for our wool.

I hope to see enterprising wool-growers act unitedly, intelligently, and promptly, upon this subject.—Let us show wily sharpers in the wool trade, that we are not idiots, but reading and thinking men, capable of getting up any amount of counter plots to destroy the baneful effects of unjust speculation.

J. V. B. S.

SALEM FLOUR.—The S. F. Commercial Herald says:

"Oregon continues to send us free supplies. The Ajax brought us 3,572 qr and 526 lb sks, and we are now advised of a sale of 7,000 bbls by the resident agent of the Salem mills to a Chinese firm here, say 5,500 bbls Superfine and 1,500 bbls Extra for export to Hong Kong by the ship Puritan. This fine ship, of 1,800 tons capacity, was chartered for \$15,000 to proceed to the Columbia River, and has already sailed North. The terms of the Flour sale are withheld, but the seller has the privilege of furnishing the balance of the cargo, say 300 tons, should he so desire, after her arrival at Portland."

The horse disease is prevalent along the stage line from Canyonville south. Nearly all horses at Jacksonville have it.

WHEAT SUPPLY.—After speaking of the unfavorable state of the weather in England, the *N. E. Farmer* (Boston) of a late date says:

Meantime the consumption of wheat in Great Britain continues large. Potatoes, in consequence of the rot, continue scarce, and high, being, it is said, dearer than bread, and fresh meats are also very high. The different estimates of the year's consumption have ranged from 22 to 24 million quarters and the present indications are the latter is the nearest correct. As to the expected supplies, it appears that light supplies are held in Northern Europe, and that if the ice was out of the way enough could not be exported to effect prices in England. Good crops are reported in Australia; but the distance is so great, and freights so high, that but little has ever been received from that distant region. Large receipts cannot be expected from English farmers, nor from other near sources of supply. Nor do present stocks warrant the expectation of large exports from the Atlantic States; hence the only place whence large supplies can be expected, is California and Oregon. Hence the London Corn Trade List, which argues that those who calculate on sufficient supplies to last until the next harvest, at present prices, will find their estimates "prove quite fallacious," is undoubtedly by correct.

NEW YORK WHEAT MARKET.—A telegram of April 22 from New York City says:

The bread stuff market is better and in a much more healthy condition all around, the demand being improved for both flour and grain. The whole list seems about to take an upward turn, which has already commenced on wheat and low grades of flour.

CROPS IN CALIFORNIA.—The San Francisco Rural Press, April 23, says:

The gentle and seasonable rain has revived the hopes of the farmers, and it is generally acknowledged that the production of the coming year will fully equal that of the last. And if we have a few more showers there is no doubt but the result will fully equal the anticipation.

### Meeting of Farmers at Monmouth.

A meeting of the citizens of Monmouth was held on Saturday, April 26, 1873, for the purpose of organizing a farmers' club. L. Bentley was elected temporary chairman, and J. B. V. Butler secretary. The following committee of arrangements was appointed: D. Ireland, William Churchill, E. E. Elkins, J. P. Dicus, and Luke Mulkey. The committee reported the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting appoint a President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer.

Officers were elected as follows:—President, L. F. M. Butler; Vice President, L. Bentley; Sec'y, J. B. V. Butler; Ass't Sec'y, J. P. Dicus; Treasurer, D. Ireland.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed by the Chair to visit the meeting at Dice's school-house, on Saturday next, for the purpose of obtaining information when Mr. Campbell can meet us to give the necessary instruction in the ritual of the Patrons of Husbandry. L. F. M. Butler, L. Bentley, and J. B. V. Butler were appointed. Thirty persons then gave their names as members of the Club. J. B. V. Butler then resigned as secretary, and Wm. R. Bradshaw was elected to fill the vacancy.

It was directed that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be sent to the *Messenger* and the *Farmer*, for publication.

Adjourned to meet on Saturday, May 10, at 1 o'clock p.m.

Wm. R. BRADSHAW, Sec.

Tangent is soon to become the depot for Corvallis instead of Albany. It is six miles from Corvallis, while Albany is ten.