

# WILLAMETTE FARMER.

\$2.50 per Year, in Advance.

SALEM, OREGON, MAY 10, 1873.

Volume V.—Number 12.

**NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.**  
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**NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.**

St. Petersburg, May 6.—James L. Orr, Ambassador from the United States, died in this city from inflammation of the lungs. He had been ill from cold some time, but his death was wholly unexpected.

Washington, May 7.—Chief Justice Chase died here this morning of apoplexy. He was attacked yesterday.

London, May 7.—A dispatch from Rome says the condition of the Pope is precarious.

Boston, May 6.—Oakes Ames was attacked by paralysis at 5 o'clock last evening at his residence in North Eaton, and is unconscious; his symptoms are dangerous in the extreme. Ames has not attended to business since Tuesday last, but was at office Wednesday, when he was advised to go home for rest. His physicians have but little hopes of his recovery. His system has been weakened by a kidney trouble of five years' existence. Ames is sixty-nine years of age.

Chicago, May 7.—A Tribune Washington special says the vacancy in the mission to St. Petersburg, created by the death of James L. Orr, is already attracting parties here, who are waiting patiently for the return of the President. At present it is said Judge Bingham, of Ohio, stands first upon the President's list of men who are to be appointed to a first-class foreign mission upon the occurrence of a vacancy.

According to a Washington special, negotiations are progressing there to turn over the lands granted by Texas to the Parisians who purchased the El Paso bonds which will relieve General Fremont from the judgment of the French Courts.

New Orleans, May 6.—The Metropolitan took quiet possession of St. Martinville on Sunday noon. That night two Metropolitan scouts were dangerously wounded in the suburbs, one of whom died. A large meeting this afternoon was addressed by General Campbell and others to endorse the action of the people of St. Martinville. Another fifty Metropolitan leave this evening to reinforce St. Martinville.

New Iberia (La.), May 7.—11 a. m.—Firing was heard this morning. A courier from the citizens' camp reported three Metropolitan killed and four wounded within two squares of the Court house, where Colonel Badger had concentrated his forces. Citizens are collecting from every portion. From Attakappas most of the recruits are of the better class, well mounted, and generally armed with breech-loading shot-guns. So far young men principally have gone into the field. Married men in towns are watching the negroes organize and are preparing to frustrate them.

Captains of steamboats have been warned not to transport armed Metropolitan, consequently they did not bring those at Bayou, knowing that their boats would be blown up. The entire Bayou Teche is under surveillance by organized bodies of citizens. Kellogg's troops can only reach St. Martinville by fighting their way up the Bayou. It is generally supposed an engagement took place last night, but no report has been received up to the present hour.

Bashleye, May 7.—Eight Metropolitan arrived this morning. The citizens refused them all shelter, and they are all stopping in a small negro cabin, filled with negroes. They have been ordered to go to St. Martinville, but can get no transportation. The ferry boat here has been removed, and the Teche boats are stopped near Franklin and guarded by citizens.

The people of Newburgh, New York, are much exercised now over the order of the School Board closing the public schools for colored children, and assigning the pupils among the schools now used exclusively for white children. There apprehensions of a general withdrawal of white children from the schools.

Los Angeles, May 6.—The following from an army correspondent in

Arizona, mailed at Camp Date Creek (April 28th), says: "Detchay, one of the principal chiefs has just arrived at Camp Verde and surrendered with 400 more warriors. Over 1,400 Mojaves and Apache Tontos have surrendered at Camp Verde, and probably not less than 600 have surrendered at other points. In a recent conversation General Crook expressed himself to the effect that General Schofield's firm course in regard to his general order requiring Indians on reservations to be accounted for daily, had its most happy effect and aided him greatly in his campaign."

Washington, May 5.—General Sherman, in a conversation on the Modoc affairs, shows that he fully appreciates the situation. He has entered upon the subject with his characteristic energy, and all the reinforcements required will be sent to Schofield without delay to the last man that can be spared. A regiment will be conveyed to Omaha to be in readiness for prompt movement and a body of 400 Indian scouts will be raised. Senator Casserly has had several interviews with Sherman and is satisfied that no effort will be spared at headquarters to enable Schofield to inflict on Captain Jack and his fellow savages a blow that will not soon be forgotten by them or the tribes on the Pacific Coast. Sherman has no fears of an Indian war.

**The Modocs.**

Lava Beds, May 5.—Nothing new to record. The Indians are supposed to occupy the same position held by them at the attack on Capt. Thomas. Large fires are seen nightly in that direction, which proves that some of Jack's gang are still there. It is not probable that the troops will make any movement until Col. Wharton arrives with what troops can be gathered from Camps Harney, Warner, and Bidwell.

Lieut. Harris's condition is still very precarious.

Yreka, May 6.—From Capt. Hizer, of the Oregon militia, we learn he has raised a company of 30 men under the proclamation of Gov. Grover calling for 300 volunteers. He proposes to raise his company to 100. The men are to enlist for the war, unless sooner discharged. His command is now camped six miles below Whittle's Ferry, on the Klamath river. The object is to protect the settlements throughout Southern Oregon.

The courier who came in to-day was informed by the courier meeting him at Ball's from the Lava bed, that he was fired on between Dorris' ranch and Ball's, obliging him to lie out all night concealed.

Gen. Davis is inspecting the country.

The baggage wagon containing the baggage of Gen. Davis was rigged with a roadometer, and the exact distance from Yreka to Ball's is given at 331 miles, and from Yreka to the bluff at the entrance to the lava-bed just 81 miles.

From Wm. Begett, who came here last week from Hot Spring Valley, we learn that the settlers there are well prepared, and on the lookout for the Modocs in case they are driven from the lava-bed. He does not believe the Pitt River Indians committed any depredations in Hot Spring Valley, or will be likely to do so, as they have never shown any such spirit, except those on the south fork of Pitt River. These south-fork Indians and the Plutes are the only Indians, he thinks, who might take a hand in the fight.—Some forty Plutes were painted up and well armed in Surprise Valley, about the time Bernard's troops came over to the lava bed, and followed him part of the way—a fact confirmed by their stopping at the house of a family on the route, who were much alarmed, but were told by the Indians that they intended no harm, as they were only after the soldiers. This force is probably the strange Indians seen with Jack's band when visited by Steele, Fair-

child, and others, formerly credited as Snake Indians. This looks reasonable, also, from the fact that if those in the lava bed with the Modocs were Snakes, there are many on the reservation at Yainox who would leave and join. The Snakes, like the Pitt River Indians, fought Gen. Crook, and got so badly whipped out that they fear soldiers, and if Crook were sent after the Modocs and Plutes he would serve them in the same style, as he generally fights his troops volunteer style.

A man named Van Bremer arrived from Hot Spring Valley yesterday, and reports the Pitt River Indians all peaceable there, and only fearing the Modocs may attack them for not going to their aid. He says the Modoc squaws and children are not over there among the Pitt River Indians, as previously reported.

**What Becomes of the Public Domain?**

CHICAGO, April 15, 1873.

Editor Willamette Farmer:

It seems that it is the policy of the American Congress to give away the public lands to almost any enterprise that can send to Washington an influential lobby. In relation to grants so frequently made to Agricultural Colleges, the *Rural New Yorker* says: "The new Agricultural College bill before Congress is not one that we commend. We have got tired of this land grant business. The manner in which the lands appropriated to Agricultural Colleges have been used is not calculated to stir our sympathies in behalf of further appropriations. If farmers of the country want their sons educated in the sciences adapted to their profession, let them pay, as other people do. We have come to the conclusion that what is not worth paying for is not worth having; and that what can be got without paying for is not appreciated, and what people are willing to pay for can always be obtained.—Hence, no more land grants for those colleges, say we." This reasoning seems entirely just. All the land grants hitherto made, have not been appreciated, with one or two exceptions. Some of our public men act as if they supposed that whatever they can get from the Government, either by right or foul means, is the great desideratum in legislation. This principle is seen in the workings of the Credit Mobilier scheme. Under this institution the Pacific Railroad cost the Government \$240,000,000, while the actual cost was only \$71,000,000, or there was a profit of \$169,000,000.

In view of the rapid disappearance of the public domain, under this donation policy of Congressional legislation, the following statistics, furnished from the General Land Office, will be of interest to agricultural community. From 1850 to 1870 the amounts stand:

Given for homesteads.....	42,500,000 acres.
Given to soldiers previous to the rebellion.....	61,076,989 "
Given to Schools, Asylums, &c.....	79,382,787 "
Swamp lands given to States.....	47,875,245 "
Given for Internal Improvements.....	14,143,054 "
Saline lands given to States.....	513,565 "
Given to individuals and communities.....	11,195,567 "
Given to Canals.....	1,450,000 "
Given to Wagon Roads.....	5,792,215 "
Given to Railroads.....	182,108,581 "
Total up to 1870.....	493,198,951 "

Add to this about 50,000,000 more, granted since 1870 and we see where the land has gone. It is a very important fact to notice, that a great amount of this land has been donated as subsidies to railroads. From

this exhibit the legislation for railroads is apparent.

The whole area of the United States is 1,466,000,000 acres of land and water. The number of acres in improved farms is 117,280,000; the number of acres in farms of any kind is 293,200,000 acres.

The railroad companies have had donated to them twice as many acres as there are of improved farms, and an amount nearly equalling the total number of acres of land in farms of any kinds. The total amount granted to railroads cannot fall short of 250,000,000 acres. The annual revenue to these companies from the sale and rent of their lands will be immense, and the influence which they will wield over their tenants and customers, will be of no small interest to this nation, either for good or for evil.

The city of Belfast in Ireland, with a population of 150,000, is owned by one man. His annual income from rents alone is over \$2,000,000. But this amount sinks into insignificance in comparison with the income which must be derived by the railroad companies from their lands donated to them by the government.

It seems that this business of giving away the public domain should cease; that what remains should be given as homesteads. Centralization is the policy of railroad companies. At the present time a half dozen men control the great portion of the roads in the United States, and if their power increases in the future as it has in the past, they must ultimately control this government.

REN.

BORAX FOR THE EPIZOOTY.—A city paper remarks, that the proprietors of the establishment to refine borax on Powell street near Chestnut, have satisfied themselves that they have found a protection against the epizootic. Knowing that Borax has a healing influence on inflammation of the mucous membrane of the mouth, in the human genus, they gave four ounces daily of it, refined and pulverized, in their food, to each of their horses, not one of whom has been attacked, while many others about them not thus protected have been afflicted. The horses like the medicine. Physicians, familiar with the qualities of borax, anticipate favorable results from the use of the new remedy.—*S. F. Rural Press.*

JUDGE APPOINTED.—Gov. Grover has appointed Hon. L. E. Mosher, of Roseburg, Judge of the Second Judicial District, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Thayer.

SCHOOL TAX.—At the school meeting last Saturday, the voters of Salem district decided to levy a tax of two and a half mills for the support of free schools this year.

ACQUITTED.—Coxon, the man accused of the murder of Mr. Hasbrook, in Yamhill county, last winter, was tried at Lafayette last week, and acquitted.

FOR SALE.—A fine carriage is advertised for sale in our columns to-day.

Henry Ward Beecher is to visit San Francisco next month.

A Prohibition Convention is called to meet at Roseburg, June 15th, proximo.

**CROP PROSPECTS IN CALIFORNIA.**—The *San Francisco Commercial Herald* of May 21 says:

The month of April was in every sense a dry month. It was not until the 20th that we were visited with any showers; then, again, on the 27th, with a slight rain-fall. In all less than one half an inch of water fell in April on an average through the State. This little revived the drooping grain, but was not sufficient to secure a crop on late planted fields, neither has it furnished us all the moisture required to secure to us a full average crop yield. We want more rain, and that speedily, to save many large wheat fields from entire destruction. Usually the month of May gives us a few passing showers, and we are yet hopeful that we may thus be blessed. Accounts from the interior are very conflicting. In some localities around our own Bay, where last year crops were light and blasted, prospects are now brilliant for full average crops. Others again are quite the reverse, yet we do not believe that the cereal crops as a whole are anything like as unpropitious as some people would try to make us believe. It may be that the crops on the west side San Joaquin are suffering severely, yet even there will be enough for seed and food, leaving us the great eastern valley of the river, etc., to feed the multitude and for export.

BOATS BURNED.—On last Friday night the steamers Alice and Shoo Fly were burned in the basin at Oregon City, within a few feet of the flouring mills of Larocque & Co. The total loss is about \$20,000. We understand that the Alice will be immediately rebuilt, as the hull and machinery are uninjured. The timely exertions of the Fire Department saved the mill and warehouse from destruction. The steamers belonged to the old line.

BELT & HALL, druggists and apothecaries, are to be found in Grover & Miller's block, opposite the Chemeketa Hotel, and the present firm is a consolidation of the interest formerly represented by J. D. Crawford & Co. and Belt & Johns. They have the services of Harry Bear, an accomplished pharmacist, experienced in compounding medicines.

MURDER.—A man named J. D. Robbins, a bachelor, living four miles west of Oregon City, was found dead in his bed last Tuesday morning. He had been shot in the head with a rifle ball, and when found had been dead two or three days. It is supposed the deed was done for money. The deceased was 53 years old.

KNAPP, BURDELL & Co. have a new advertisement in the FARMER calling attention to their stock of agricultural machinery. This old and well known house are in the field with all the advantages necessary to do business on the most favorable terms.

DROWNED.—A little boy, about nine years old, son of George Williams, colored, of this city, was drowned in the river last Tuesday. He got beyond his depth in the water in the effort to recover a whistle which he had dropped.

THE GOV. GROVER.—This splendid steamer is very popular with the shippers and traveling public, and every down trip she carries from forty to fifty passengers and from 150 to 200 tons of freight.

DEFERRED.—The communication entitled "What becomes of the People's Money?" will appear next week.