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News by Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—It is positively asserted to-night that Attorney General Williams wrote a letter this afternoon requesting the withdrawal of his nomination for Chief Justice. The report comes from a trustworthy private source.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—A Herald special from Key West says Manuel Quesada arrived to-day. He believes the prospects of Cuba brighter than ever, and declares that nothing short of independence will be accepted.

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—The telegraphic situation is not changed for the better this morning, and there is scarcely a possibility of getting anything from the East before to-night, if even then. A few dispatches got through at an early hour this morning, via Richmond, Virginia, through the Carolinas, through Atlanta, Louisville and Cincinnati. The storm appears to be from the lakes on the north to Tennessee on the south, and how far east cannot be definitely stated.

HELENA, Jan. 7.—The Legislature of Montana met last Monday, G. W. Stapleton, President; J. H. Romers, Speaker of the House. The Governor's message places the debt of the Territory at \$432,987. He recommends a memorial asking Congress to open a military road via Wind River and Yellowstone Lake to Montana.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The message of the President to the Senate withdrawing the nomination of Geo. H. Williams as Chief Justice states that it is done at his own request. Williams remains in office as Attorney-General, and the nomination of Colonel Bristow for the position is in another brief message consequently withdrawn. Following is the letter of Attorney-General Williams, requesting the withdrawal of his nomination:

"WASHINGTON, Jan. 7th, 1874." "To the President—Sir: You were kind enough, without my solicitation or any knowledge on my part that you contemplated such a thing, to nominate me for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Since that time the flood-gates of calumny in all directions have been opened upon me. My abilities have been disparaged, my integrity brought in question, and, as it seems to me, that stage of public opinion adverse to my appointment has been reached which might hereafter embarrass your administration and perhaps impair my usefulness upon the bench. With a perfect consciousness that I have performed, with clean hands and upright purpose, all the duties of the various public offices to which I have been called, and trusting to time to adjust the public mind, when better informed, for my vindication, I respectfully ask you to withdraw my nomination."

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Nesmith and passed by the House of Representatives to-day:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested, if not incompatible with the public service, to furnish the House of Representatives with copies of all the correspondence between the different Departments of the Government and the Peace Commissioners during the war with the Modoc Indians in Southern Oregon and Northern California during the years 1872 and 1873; also, copies of all correspondence with, and orders issued to military authorities engaged in such war up to the period of the removal of the Modoc Indians from the States of Oregon and California. It is expected this resolution will lead to the exposure of numerous schemes of speculation on the Pacific Coast.

The Appropriation Committee recommend the following appropriations for fortifications: For the fort at Fort Point, entrance to the San Francisco harbor, \$30,000; original estimate, \$50,000. For Alcatraz Island, \$20,000; for torpedo and harbor defenses, and for preservation of same, \$170,000; reduced from original estimate of \$300,000. For contingencies for fortifications, \$70,000; reduced from \$100,000. For surveys and reconnoissances of military divisions and departments, \$50,000; reduced from the original estimate of \$75,000. For continuing explorations and surveys of the Territories of the United States, \$50,000; reduced from the original estimate of \$125,000. No appropriations are recommended by the bill for the fortifications at Linn Point, at the entrance of the harbor of San Francisco.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—The proposed demonstration in Union Square, this morning, proved a failure. Not more than 300 men appeared in little groups. No one appearing to organize the meeting and a somewhat heavy rain prevailing, the men soon scattered.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 8.—Much excitement has been created here by the report of the Grand Jury of the Criminal Court with regard to the Poorhouse, which they declare is a disgrace to civilization. The sick, the well, the sane, the insane, black and white, criminals and simply unfortunate beings, are mixed together indiscriminately, without regard to sex. They are half-starved, filthy, half-clothed, and are beaten and abused by the keeper and his deputies.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—Ex-Sheriff Brennan has been sentenced to thirty days in jail for contempt of Court in allowing Genet to escape.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Cresswell's Government savings bank scheme is considered dead in the House, even if the present Postal Committee—a majority of whom are against it—could be reversed. Since President Orton's review of Cresswell's report in favor of postal telegraphy, the latter scheme hardly attracts any attention in Congress.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—The President has appointed Edward H. Geary and Stephen H. Lee, of Oregon, Geo. H. Hurlbert, of Illinois, Commissioners to examine the Northern Pacific Railroad from the nearest end to Tacoma, W. T.

Nesmith is pushing the bill for a break-water at Port Orford.

The Chief of Engineer's Bureau reports against McFadden's bill for the construction of a military road from Wallula to Seattle, which inevitably kills the project. Present appearances indicate that more than \$700,000 will be appropriated for Mare Island during the year, being \$400,000 less than last year. The reduction will fall principally upon the civil establishment.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The President to-day nominated Caleb Cushing to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—It is probable a stormy debate will take place on the confirmation of Caleb Cushing, as his nomination does not give satisfaction to the politicians here.

At the meeting of Representatives to-night, to consider the subject of cheap transportation, Luttrell, of California, said he was in favor of cheap and speedy transportation. He desired the appointment of a committee of nine to make such suggestions to the Committee on Railroads and Canals as would express the views of this meeting in behalf of the general interest of agriculture, and that they would vote for such measures as would accomplish the object desired. He said the farmers of California were almost bankrupt by freight, shipping, railroad and dock rates, and that the farmers of his State were slaves to monopoly. Further discussion by the House Railroad Committee shows a unanimity in favor of the proposition for a Board of Commissioners to superintend and regulate railroad administration, the object being to secure the public from oppression and prevent extortion and discrimination in rates. The committee has agreed to make the term of the Board six years, and three of the nine members are to retire every two years.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 9.—Wool firm, but not higher; stock is scarce with a small business. Colorado washed, 25@30c; Colorado unwashed, 22@24c; extra and marino pulled, 40@45c; Texas fine and medium, 32@35c; Texas coarse, 22@25c; California fine and medium, 30@30c; California coarse, 25@30c.

NEW YORK, Jan. 10.—The Independent has been sold to parties with the Rev. Dr. Talmadge represented, for \$250,000—\$75,000 cash, and the remainder on time, with real estate as security. \$400,000 was offered for the same property four years ago.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 9.—The Supreme Court to-day (two Judges dissenting) decided that the clause of the State Temperance Law under which a person may be fined for intoxication, and also be compelled to testify where he obtained his liquor, is unconstitutional.

HELENA, Jan. 10.—A fire broke out about 7 o'clock A. M. yesterday, in the upper part of Chinatown. A heavy wind was blowing at the time, directly towards the heart of the city. The fire soon spread over the whole of Chinatown, and, despite the heroic efforts of the firemen and citizens, jumped Bridge street, thence down both sides of Main street, destroying every building except Kessler & Miller's saloon, until stopped by Millen & Rosecrans's shoe-store and Bohm's old banking house. The east side of Grove street, and the buildings between it and Main were also destroyed. Everything on Jackson street to the rear of the St. Louis Hotel was burned, and up both sides of Wood and Bridge streets to the first cross street, east of Main street. Among the buildings destroyed and the heavy losers are the International and Cosmopolitan Hotels, Travis' livery stable and the First National and People's Banks—the contents of their fire-proof vaults are all safe, also, Gauss & Klein, Goldberg Bros., Lavinberg, and Loeb Bros., dry goods; Western Union Telegraph office, Gazette printing establishment, Koetigsber Bros., tobacco, and Parben & Paynter, drugs. The fire jumped to Fifth avenue, entirely destroying Surveyor General Blaine's residence and the dwelling adjoining, occupied by Hon. Daniel Searles. Besides the losses from fire, many suffered heavily by moving, etc. At one time it was thought that the whole town would be laid in ashes. The total loss is estimated at \$550,000; insurance light.

VICTORIA, Jan. 8.—The steamship California arrived from Sitka last Sunday and sailed for Portland on Monday morning. She passed Cape Flattery the same day. After being tossed about for 24 hours by a storm of unexampled severity, she was compelled to return into the straits, and anchor in Neah Bay, but the gale still increasing she returned here last night, and will remain until the weather moderates. Weather cloudy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—At the caucus of Republican Senators to-day Senators Edmunds, Conkling and Boutwell advocated the confirmation of Cushing. These were his principal advocates; but those who spoke on the other side were far more numerous, and before the discussion ended it was observed that the nominee's friends were in a minority. Finally it was informally decided to ask the Judiciary Committee to call upon the President and represent to him the feeling among the Republican Senators against the confirmation. Opposition to Cushing is solely upon political grounds.

CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—Washington specials give a lively account of the Cushing caucus yesterday. The Inter-Ocean's correspondence states that if lightning had struck the room in which the meeting took place, it would not have disturbed Cushing's friends more than a letter produced and read by Mr. Sargent to the Confederacy. When the caucus met it was fully attended, Cushing's friends feeling confident.

Mr. Edmunds opened, and presented the case for confirmation, but showed plainly that personally he had little heart in the matter.

Mr. Sargent opposed the confirmation bitterly, and reviewed Cushing's record, when he gave way.

Mr. Cameron, who said he desired to leave on the noon train, but wished to indicate his position. He then attacked the nomination with great vigor, and said that if it were confirmed it would destroy the Republican party.

Mr. Sargent, resuming, referred to Cushing's antecedents, and coming down to 1862, produced and read a letter by Cushing to Marcy, of New Hampshire, denouncing the war in a style that would have done credit to Vallandigham.

Mr. Scott followed much in the strain of Sargent and Cameron. He would not support the nomination unless it could be proved to his satisfaction that Cushing was sound on the great questions growing out of the war, and he must have convincing proof.

Mr. Frelinghuysen followed and endorsed those views.

Mr. Boutwell began, but was considerably embarrassed by the letter Sargent read. He went on to say, however, that from his acquaintance with Cushing since the war, he had been led to believe that he was fully committed to and in sympathy with the position of the Republican party, and that he believed Cushing had been in favor of war. He had based his belief on his Newburyport speech in 1861, already printed. He was greatly surprised at the letter to Marcy, which he had just heard read for the first time.

Toward the close of Boutwell's speech Mr. Edmunds interrupted him to say that he had just heard a report that Cushing had written a letter to Jeff. Davis in 1861, and he thought it just and proper to mention it.

Mr. Boutwell resumed to close his remarks, and while he was speaking Sargent came in and was noticed showing around what appeared to be a letter.

Mr. Edmunds's statement created great excitement.

Mr. Conkling was observed to take Sargent's letter to the window and read it.

Mr. Conkling defended Cushing, saying that he was like many other Democrats, at first opposed to the war, but afterwards loyal.

After the speech of Conkling there were calls on all sides for Sargent to read the letter. He objected, saying he had been requested by Senators not to read it in caucus, but so many Senators insisted that he finally read it. It was dated Washington, March 21, 1861, and was addressed to Jeff. Davis, and read as follows:

"MY DEAR FRIEND: This will introduce to you my friend, Abraham Powers, who has been a clerk in one of the Departments here for six or seven years. He leaves the service here on account of his opinions, and, being a Southern man by birth and education, is devoted to what he regards as his country (the Confederacy). He has been a contributor to DeBow's Review, and is fully acquainted with the questions which undermined and have now broken up the American Union. I commend him to your favorable notice, as a man who is worthy of your confidence."

"CALEB CUSHING."

The reading of the letter produced an immense sensation. Those who had defended Cushing looked blank and amazed. Mr. Lewis, of Virginia, cried out to learn whether the political disabilities of Cushing had ever been broken up, and Senators were in confusion, taking the matter over and asking again for points. At last order was restored, when it was at once decided, without opposition, that the Judiciary Committee should wait on the President and ask him to withdraw the nomination of Cushing, on the correspondence with the enemy during the rebellion.

It is believed now that after this exposure Cushing's confirmation is impossible.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—In the House of Representatives yesterday, the Senate substitute for the Salary Bill was passed by a vote of 236 yeas to 25 nays. The bill goes to the President for approval. It reduces salaries to old rates.

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From the Oregonian we learn that the Robinson brothers, while engaged digging a well near the North Yamhill river, lately found a fossil human finger perfect in form, among the shells of a petrified clam bed. That paper suggests that a relic of the flood era has been discovered. James Stone was crossing the Columbia near St. Helens lately, and his staff was upset, and after clinging to the keel a long time, he drifted on an island and was rescued in an exhausted condition.

Justice Davis of Portland left his office awhile the other day and a bold thief dropped in and robbed his drawer of \$10.

The Bulletin says the Society of St. Vincent De Paul, having received generous contributions, have concluded to commence at once the erection of their proposed hospital building.

W. S. Ladd, Esq., has been suffering for a week from neuralgia and confined to his room.

A Mr. Murray, near Constock's station, was out for a hunt when he was attacked by a large female panther, and after a hand to hand fight, in which he received severe injuries, he succeeded in killing the furious beast with his knife. He brought in a young cub which he found near.

A Mr. Gosa, a few miles below town on the river, has been arrested for the seduction of his step-daughter.

Houses are not "to let" at Albany, all taken by new comers.

Mr. L. E. Pratt has talked Albany somewhat into the notion of having a Woolen Factory to be run by Sanilium Ditch Water.

C. P. Burkhart shows the editor of the Democrat a beautiful gold medal awarded him by the State Agricultural Society for the greatest variety of cereals.

Corinthian Grange, Center Precinct, Linn county, has installed W. K. Price, Master, C. Wahl, Secretary, and is flourishing and prosperous.

Harrisburg has 131 pupils enrolled in her public schools, and regular attendance numbers, 95.

Joseph Sherts has been re-arrested for the Bevel Home Valley tragedy, cause, insufficiency of bail bond.

From the Corvallis Gazette: Last Tuesday morning, about 4 o'clock, the blacksmith shop of H. C. Rowe, at Philomath, was burned to the ground. It was a two-story frame building, 18x30 feet, immediately between the wagon shop and another small building. When discovered, the upper part was all on fire. The lower part was not so much affected, and the citizens assembled and without fire apparatus except buckets, the fire was subdued without spreading to either of the adjoining buildings, and actually secured the blacksmith shop. Mr. Rowe's loss is \$400 to \$500.

On the 31st of December, County Deputy, Rev. A. Simpson, organized a Grange in Alsea valley, and elected Master, H. H. Starr, Secretary; Thos. Russell, Esq., Overseer. Mr. S. put the Grange in good working order, and came back delighted.

Juniper is a live place, and improving rapidly. We understand J. M. Berry intends to enlarge his hotel next Spring.

Mr. H. H. Berry, of this place, has invented a new curvilinear punch, which he thinks much superior to the ordinary punch used by harness makers, and upon which he has applied for a patent.

The dwelling house of Mr. Markham, distant about four miles north of this town, burned to the ground Thursday night of last week. Mr. Markham was in the house at the time, and his household effects were all consumed.

The grass in the Umpqua grows finely since the late rains.

Teachers and Elm Bartle have been bonded over for holding a Chinaman of \$15.

Miss Brown, of Salem, a young lady of fine intellectual accomplishments, has been employed as assistant teacher in the Rossburg Academy.

R. M. Gurney is in town, having just returned from below, where he has been engaged in organizing Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry.

There were two marriage licenses issued from Douglas County Clerk's office during 1873.

Mr. R. M. Gurney, District Deputy, informs us that he organized the 5th Ind., Yoncalia Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, with a membership of twenty-six persons. A Lamb was chosen Master and J. C. Dr. in Secretary.

The Benton Democrat says Hamilton Brothers are trying one dollar a bushel for wheat county to be in the middle of the year, examination of classes has been going on at the Agricultural College.

It learns from the Guard that: Since the 1st of August last, the whole number of money orders issued by Postmaster Patterson has been 421; cash received for same, \$11,002 23; fees on orders sold, \$12 63; orders paid \$5,842 82; cash remitted to Depository at Portland, \$1,449 88. This we believe to be a better showing according to our population than any other town in our State can make for the same period.

JENKINS CITY, Jan. 2th, 1874. ED. GARRETT: Please give the following notice in your next issue:

I hereby notify the officers of all organized Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry in Lane county to assemble at Eugene City on the 20th of January, 1874, at 1 o'clock P. M. A full attendance is requested, as business of importance will come before the Grange.

Dep. M. P. H. for Lane Co.

The following is the money-order business transacted in the Oregon City Postoffice during the year 1873: Total number of orders issued, 201; total amount for orders, \$10,982 98; fees on same, \$59 90; number of orders paid, 233; amount paid on same, \$1,947 23.

The Republican says: The assessment books, as shown by the assessment books, amounts to \$1,640,000. The tax levy is sixteen mills on the dollar. The tax levied for county purposes is \$12,000 15; for sale, \$6,000 15; for school, \$1,000 00. The total tax to be raised for 1874 is \$26,250 30.

Near Dayton, W. T., a few days since, an affray occurred between two men named Chandler and Danckin. The former attacked the latter with abusive language. One drew a knife and the other reached up a branch-loading rifle; but before the rifle could be used the man who had seized it was knocked down by his antagonist. Chandler was severely beaten over the head with the gun. It is possible he may recover, but one eye is lost.

Mrs. Jacobson, of Jackson Bros., who in business with Northern Idaho, lost \$2,000 from his saddle-bags the other day while riding to Lewiston. He had dismounted to lighten the girths of his saddle, when his horse took fright and broke away from him, and before the animal was recovered, the money was lost as reported.

Dr. Barnes, formerly a blacksmith at Lewiston, who lately had his feet badly frozen while hunting cats in the Yakima Valley, went to Walla Walla for medical aid, where it was found necessary to amputate both of his feet at the ankle joint in order to save his life.

A good portion of the deserters from the different regiments on Montana Territory have availed themselves of the President's proclamation

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granting all such free pardons who returned to duty before January 1, 1874, and have returned to their respective companies.

The two young men, George Kelly and Charles Binnett, who were arrested some time ago for a murderous assault on a Mr. F. W. Aberton, at Walla Walla, W. T., were committed to jail in default of \$2,000 bail.

The bark Mary Glover, which sailed from Nainaimo with a load of coal for San Francisco, got about sixty miles outside of Cape Flattery when she commenced leaking so badly that she was forced to put back to Royal Roads.

A lady named Mrs. Showers, residing on the corner of Fourteenth and Alder streets, on Saturday morning fell and broke one of her limbs. Dan. J. Fitzpatrick then in the Portland City Jail on Sunday evening. He was under arrest on a charge of drunkenness.

During the week ending on Wednesday last, the cars took from Eugene City and Hallett's station thirteen hundred tons of wheat.

The new steam saw mill at Gardiner, near the mouth of the Umpqua, belonging to Hindsdale & Co., is nearly completed.

Wm. F. Winter, a well-known resident of Portland, died on Friday last.

On Wednesday evening of last week Seattle was illuminated for the first time by gas.

Sixteen vessels were recently noticed entering the harbor in Port Townsend on one day.

A force of Chinese is employed near Lewiston, digging a race for a flour mill.

The wharf of the Oregon Steamship Co. is literally loaded down with wheat, flour and other products, awaiting shipment.

Three hundred tons of ice have already been put up at the Dalles, besides what the U. S. N. Co. have hoisted.

W. S. Ladd is still confined to his house by illness, but not considered dangerous.

The society for the prevention of cruelty to animals is in operation at Portland.

Capt. A. C. Farasworth died at Astoria on Monday.

The Willamette Chief, the new steamer of the W. R. T. Co., was successfully launched yesterday afternoon in the presence of a large concourse, including many ladies. She will cost \$25,000 and be ready for active service in about a month.

The new boiler for the Willamette Chief is due at Portland on the bark Rival, now on the way from San Francisco.

A Council of the Granges of the Northern part of the State and W. T. was held at Portland yesterday and organized with Edwin Forbes of Clackamas county as President; W. F. Campbell of Multnomah as Vice President; A. P. Lee of Clackamas, Secretary, and Jacob Johnson of Multnomah, Treasurer. The Bulletin says about fifty delegates were present and much interest taken.

The W. R. T. Company.

The Willamette Transportation Company has launched another fine new boat at Portland which will soon be ready for the river trade. It is necessary to maintain a fair opposition in freighting to secure reasonable rates and this company comes in as the competing force which serves as a check upon the railroad and the other river line, which are virtually operated in the same interest. We are in favor of reasonable competition and no company can be trusted with control of trade or transportation without a certainty of becoming an exacting monopoly.

We are assured that the owners of the Canal and Locks can at any time receive sixty thousand dollars per annum for a ten years' lease of those works and yet they prefer to operate them in connection with a good line of river boats, and that should make friends for them with the people and with the merchants who are dependent on the prosperity of the people for their success.

Our only hope for sustaining competing steamers on the ocean lies in supporting the opposition line of river boats which can be depended on to furnish them with business. It is not to be expected that the merchants of Portland will feel the same interest in cheapening freights to San Francisco that country merchants and those of other towns do, therefore, it is in the interest of our merchants as well as producers to furnish a fair share of support for the company which offers the only hope for ocean competition.

The ocean steamer trade to the Columbia river is a monopoly and a paying one, and our State has a heavy pecuniary interest in securing a wholesome competition there, as well as in maintaining the competition which now exists on the Willamette.

Still again, we realize the great need that the upper Willamette shall be cleared of obstructions and made as nearly as possible open to navigation during the early fall months, and that is a matter the W. R. T. Co. is more interested in than any other Co. The other line is perhaps satisfied if the freights go by the railroad, and, at all events, it is not a competitor against the road, therefore, it is necessary to secure additional transit for freights. This is afforded by means of the Canal and Locks and the boats which run in connection with them, and they must be supported by a fair share of public patronage. — Daily Statesman.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—Senator Mitchell's bill appropriates \$50,000 for the purchase of material and apparatus for a private assay office in Portland, Oregon, and the appointment of a necessary officers for the establishment of a Government assay office. An office at that point, Mitchell in the letter to the Treasury Department urges, would be the means of accommodating a large productive gold region on the Northern Pacific Coast, saving unnecessary charges to miners and preventing a large annual export of gold to China. Linderman, Director of the Mint, writes a letter in reply, giving Mitchell's bill his official endorsement.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—Greenbacks, 803,000.

The rain to-day has had a depressing effect on the stock market in California street.

Weather off the harbor thick and foggy.

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