

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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Counting the Electoral Vote.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—At 1:35 the Senate and House met in joint convention, and President Ferry, after the usual preliminaries, said the two houses not having decided otherwise, the decision of the vote of Louisiana, which Senator Allison, on taller, announced, was according to the commission, eight for Hayes and Wheeler, would stand approved.

The counting then proceeded, and Maine's seven votes were recorded for Hayes and Wheeler; Maryland's eight for Tilden and Hendricks; Massachusetts's eight for Hayes and Wheeler.

Tucker objected to the eleven votes of Michigan being counted on account of the ineligibility of Daniel L. Crossman, and declaring that one Benton Hanchet, having been elected an elector for Michigan, and having held a still holding the office of U. S. Commissioner, had absented himself from the electoral college, and his place been filled by the remaining electors. The objector claims Hanchet being absent did not create a vacancy, and therefore Crossman was not duly appointed. The testimony of Hanchet that he never resigned his office, and therefore remained away, is submitted.

The Senate then withdrew to allow each house to consider the matter separately. After discussion, the House adopted the resolution that Hanchet, not having exercised the duties of office for twelve years, the vote of the elector objected to should be counted. The Senate was notified.

In the Senate, after considerable debate, it was resolved that the vote of Crossman should be counted.

At 5:20 the Senate again entered the hall and resumed concurrent action. Each house overruling the objection in the case of the Michigan electors, the votes of that State were announced and cast for Hayes and Wheeler. Then followed Minnesota with five votes for Hayes and Wheeler, Mississippi with eight for Tilden and Hendricks, Missouri with fifteen for Tilden and Hendricks, Nebraska with three for Hayes and Wheeler, and Nevada with three votes for Hayes and Wheeler.

Springer objected to one of the votes of Nevada, on the ground that R. M. Daggett was at the time of his appointment, and for a long time previously and thereafter, U. S. Commissioner for the circuit and district courts of the United States in the district of Nevada. The objection having been read, the Senate then withdrew.

The Senate proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to resume count. On returning the objection to Daggett's vote was read, and also the testimony taken by the committee on powers and privileges of the House in regard to his holding the office of clerk of the United States court, but which he stated he resigned on the 6th of November.

Jones now submitted a resolution that the vote of R. M. Daggett be counted with the other votes, notwithstanding the objection made; agreed to unanimously, and the Secretary of the Senate was directed to notify the House of the action of the Senate.

In the House, Springer moved the House take a recess till to-morrow. At first there was a majority of 20 against the motion, but several Republicans changed their votes from no to aye, and the motion was decided carried—45 to 27. The House therefore took a recess.

By a later dispatch, we learn that the count proceeded, Nevada was counted for Hayes and Wheeler, and finally Oregon was reached.

EXPLANATION OF SENATOR KELLY

Eight Senators were only present at 10, but there being no objection a communication from the President of the electoral college was read, conveying the decision of the commission on the Louisiana vote, it was agreed that the House be informed the Senate was ready to proceed with the count of the electoral votes, when Kelly asked permission to make a personal explanation, which was granted. He said he would do so when the Senate was full.

At a few moments before 1 o'clock, nearly all the Senators being present, Kelly took the floor and had read from the Washington Star of yesterday's paragraph in regard to evidence before the committee on privileges and elections as to the telegram concerning him with attempt to buy a Republican elector in Oregon, and said it was his desire a day or two ago, when the translation of the telegram was made public to make a personal explanation, but he was dissuaded from doing so until the result as to the Oregon matter should be submitted to the Senate, even this morning a number of his friends advised him not to make any explanation, but he had determined to rely upon his own judgment. Some time previous to the 24th of November last he was in San Francisco, but thought it best to return to Oregon before going East. He did so, and while in the depot at Salem, Oregon, a gentleman introduced himself as Mr. Patrick, stated that he was authorized by the National Democratic Committee to come to Oregon to look into the matter of Watta's eligibility. He (Kelly) and Patrick went to Portland together, and there saw Bellinger, the chairman of the Democratic State Committee, in regard to the case, who said it was expected proceedings would be commenced before the courts to compel the Governor to issue a certificate to Watta. Bellinger said he had partially employed a firm of Republican lawyers to defend any action against the Governor. The firm wanted a fee of \$5,000, but had finally agreed to take 4,000. Bellinger also said it was the belief that the Governor would issue his certificate to Cronin, although he was very reticent on the subject. A conversation as to the difficulty of obtaining funds to pay the lawyers took place, and it was finally suggested that the

National Democratic committee should pay the expenses. Patrick assented to this and said he had full authority to make that arrangement. Three or four hours afterwards Patrick came to him with a cipher dispatch. He said he had prepared a telegram to Col. Wm. T. Pelton, Secretary of the National Democratic committee, asking him to deposit to the credit of his (Patrick's) Banker in New York, \$10,000 to pay lawyers fees in Oregon, and if not used, the money would be returned. Patrick requested him to endorse it, as he was a public man well known to the committee, and therefore it would be easier to get the money. He (Kelly) could not read the cipher, but took Patrick's word and wrote upon the dispatch "I fully endorse the above." He had believed what Patrick said was true, and even now he did not know if the translation before the committee was a correct one. Kelly then quoted from the dispatch as translated before the committee, and said he knew nothing about the one saying it will take \$5,000 for a Republican elector. Kelly continuing his remarks, said he never spoke to any Republican elector in Oregon, nor had he ever authorized any one to speak for him to pay such elector any money and he was sure the Republican electors of Oregon would say that no man ever offered to give them one cent to recognize Cronin. He (Kelly) thought Patrick came to the State with the idea that he could be instrumental in changing the result of Oregon's vote and desired such an opinion of him to be entertained in New York. Kelly then referred to the dispatch from Oregon signed Governor, and sent to Samuel J. Tilden, to the effect that he would issue the certificate to Cronin, and said that the dispatch was not sent by the Governor; it must have been sent by Patrick. He sent to the clerk's desk and had read the following:

SALEM, Oreg., Feb. 16.
To Hon. James K. Kelly, Washington, D. C.: Deny that I sent any telegram to Tilden. I never sent a cipher in my life.
L. F. GROVES.

Resuming his remarks, Kelly said there was not a particle of evidence to show that he ever engaged any one to offer the electors money. He never spoke to them and never thought of offering them money. He never asked any one to give a cent for that purpose and never gave a cent himself. He had been in the Senate six years, and now that he was about to leave, he desired that there should be nothing against his good name. He was confident that this explanation would be satisfactory to the people of his State. A good character was better than great riches, and he did not wish to have his good name ruined. He did not want to leave under a cloud or to tarnish the name of the State which sent him here.

FOREIGN

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A telegram from Pesh to the Standard reports 5,000 military engineers are changing the gauge of Roumanian railways to that of Russian roads. The work will be completed in 20 days. The Russian army is making energetic preparations to cross the Pruth. Orders from St. Petersburg are that the march should be accomplished without needlessly encumbering the railways, which will transport the artillery and ambulances.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—The Russian army, south of Caucasus, on the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, in readiness for action, numbers 115,000 men, with 35 field batteries and 200 heavy siege guns.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—A Standard dispatch from Vienna reports Roumanian representatives officially informed Count Andrássy that Roumanian desires to remain neutral in any case, and the Roumanian militia will be disbanded next week.

A special from Pesh says it is rumored in Belgrade that Russia informed Serbia that she intends to cross Servia within ten days.

European Grain Market.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The rural districts continue fairly favorable as to the condition of winter sown wheat, which is looking well on most lands, and where it has not suffered injury from recent frosts in the Southern counties. Beans are also said to be unusually forward for the time of year and vegetation generally, is rapidly advancing. Very little alteration is noted either in quality of English wheat in market or the condition of samples which, owing to the grain never having become thoroughly dry in store, having been in a damp and inferior condition, consequently a further decline of one shilling per quarter has occurred. But farmers, as a rule, have not pressed sales in country markets, and it has been difficult to buy at the decline. The week's import of wheat into London has been moderate, and until the close of the week trade was extremely quiet, sales being effected with difficulty, although prices were not notably lower. On Friday, however, a decided reaction set in and a steady demand was experienced from millers at improved prices, especially foreign varieties, which received the most attention, owing to the scarcity of the milling. Samples of this class of wheat occasionally realized a slight advance. Politics have had no apparent effect on trade, and a return to firmness commenced with an improvement in demand, which seems to result from continued short imports. With an advance in American prices and extremely short shipments, recently advised from Atlanta; ports, inquiry for feeding stuffs has been very light through the week, and grinding barley, oats and maize have given way id per quarter, with moderate arrivals at ports of call. Floating cargoes of wheat have met with a steady, increasing demand at an improvement of a shilling to two shillings per quarter, chiefly upon red sorts. Maize has also ruled a shade steadier.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

ED. FARMER: I have just returned from a few days' trip in the northeast part of the county, on business connected with our State Grange. As I passed along I could not help noticing the thrifty progress our people are making in substantial improvements. Every body seems to be doing on the Chinese, and out of pure revenge has set them to grubbing for a living. I noticed one heavy piece of grubbing near Silverton; the piece was literally dug up all over, and the cost was \$18 per acre, by the job, and they boarded themselves, which last item seems to suit our kitchen help first-rate.

The first night, I put up with Bro. Hadley, of Mount Vernon Grange, which meets at Silverton. This Grange is small in numbers, but is wide awake. Bro. Hadley has a good farm, and is a true Patron. The second night, I stopped with Bro. Giner Remington, who is Overseer of this Grange. He has one of the best farms I have seen in that part of the county. I noticed on his farm a model make of straw-shed, a barn where he saves all his straw and corn for winter feed. He has in his orchard some fine walnut trees, under which the walnuts lay un-gathered, as they used to in eastern Indiana. I cracked some, and found them good, but not so large as they were East. I next visited Bro. Fayette Remington, who lives on one of the finest ridges of wheat land in that fine locality. He has a wagon which he made himself, and the wheels of which are of iron, a big improvement on the usual wheel, as they are much lighter and stronger, and we think will be eventually much used for light carriages and buggies. He has a shop and does his own work.

I here met Sister Geer, a sister of Mount Vernon Grange, who is an intelligent looking Matron. From here Bros. Remington and Hadley escorted me to Bro. Dungan's where we met Bro. Sanders of Abiqua Grange, who is also a mechanic, farmer, and master of Abiqua Grange. Abiqua has a co-operative store, kept by A. Moses. I here bid Bros. Remington and Hadley good bye, and next visited Bro. Henson who is a member of our Pomona Grange, and no truer Patron lives. I here met Bro. Phelps, Past-Master of this Grange. He has a good farm near here. After the barn-raising was over, Bro. Thompson invited all the patrons to assemble at his house by candle-light. I here met Bro. and Sister Henson, Bro. Ross, Bro. Phelps, and others whom I cannot recall now, and together with Bro. and Sister Thompson, we had some hours of social chat, and a "way up time" generally. This part of Marion county is very hard to clear of brush, but there are many good farms here, and the soil is good.

After bidding the friends good bye, on my way home I passed near where the battle of the Abiqua was fought, where Captain Geer and Brown, of the Oregon Militia, defeated the Klamaths under Yachika, and Red Blanket. In the beginning of the fight Yachika was killed, when the Indians retreated to the mountains. The Indians would have suffered severely, but for the incessant rain which rendered most of the guns unserviceable.

The night following it snowed; early next morning Sergeant King, of Captain Geer's company, struck the track of the Indians going into the mountains (they had made arrows all night), and on coming up with them it was found they had chosen a strong position, but they were routed with the loss of fourteen killed and wounded; some of the Indian women helping in the fight, two of whom were killed. The charge of Sergeant King was so swift that that only one white man was wounded. The Indians fought well, but Red Blanket was killed. Red Blanket, after being shot, leaped a bluff thirty feet in height and swam nearly across the Abiqua. This fight saved the white settlers a bloody war, as the Indians were in council with other tribes, and by robbing houses and other acts of hostility showed their hostile purposes. This happened in February or March, 1848, and one of the savages wounded in the fight crawled in the brush some two miles from where I now live, where I found him some time afterwards, rotting. He had been shot through the arm and chest, and had followed from the Abiqua, but was unable to keep up, as the Indians left in a hurry for their own country by the Santiam Pass. I have this dead Indian's thigh bone in my cabinet of relics of the olden time. This fight, it will be remembered, took place while our best men, seven hundred, were fighting the Cayuses east of the mountains, in the war that followed the murder of Dr. Whitman and others. The sending of so many men

and all the best guns left the settlements almost defenceless, and the scattered tribes here, especially the Molalls, hoped to find their settler their guard. The Molalls were always defiant and prone to be hostile, and part of them were at the time of this fight camped near the Klamaths, with whom they were intermarried.

G. W. HUNT.

Railroad Legislation Needed.

The Central Pacific railroad was built by the government bonds granted on a second mortgage; and from the proceeds of the land grant, and the shrewd men who built it put into their own pockets all the money received from sale of the first mortgage bonds, so that the three or four chief managers are supposed to have made from five to ten millions of dollars each out of the transaction. So with the Union Pacific road and its management, and yet, not satisfied with this great riches, these railroads successfully defeat all attempts to make them pay the interest on the money the government loaned them to aid the building of their roads.

It is noticeable that all the while they thus abuse the public trust they are dividing the enormous profits of this monopoly among the stock-holders, showing a shameless disregard of the people they outrage. They have millions to expend in defying the people they victimize and the law they manage to evade, and now that a bill is before Congress to secure some efficient legislation looking to only a partial recognition of the rights of the people, every effort possible is made to defeat the measure and protect these monster corporations in the enjoyment of their monopoly and in their refusal to pay even the interest of the debt, which interest has now accumulated to over ten millions of dollars—stolen from the people.

These are the facts of the case plainly stated, and of course we are all interested in seeing these corporations compelled to act honestly and fairly towards the nation. The dispatches show that an Oregon Senator (J. H. Mitchell) seems to be voting and laboring for the interest of the railroads, which we trust is not really the case, for the people of Oregon can have no sympathy with these corporations that have kept the millions due the government and have thus managed to corrupt Congress and prevent unfavorable legislation. We hope to see our Senators vote right on this question, and believe that the people of Oregon will refuse to promote any man to future honors who shall be found in Congress acting the mere part of a corporation attorney.

FREIGHTS ON THE WILLAMETTE.

The farmers of this valley very naturally wish to secure themselves from imposition in freight charges and recognize that it is better that fair and reasonable charges shall be made for transportation than that freight shall be extremely low. In either case it indicates an unhealthy condition of things and the farmer and producer must suffer in the end. A friend writes us that he lately attended a meeting at Albany to consider the transportation question. It was decided to file articles of incorporation, but also to interview the present steamboat companies to see if satisfactory arrangements can be made to cooperate with them, and a committee was appointed for that purpose.

We have always insisted that the farmers of this valley can make themselves independent of transportation monopoly whenever it shall be necessary. If the present steamboat companies, which possess ample facilities, can be depended on to co-operate with the producers on fair and equitable terms there is no reason why farming capital should be diverted from its legitimate channel and invested in steamboats, but we should take no chances of being victimized another year as we were last season.

Flax Production.

We have lately published several articles concerning the value of Oregon flax fiber, and in connection with this subject showed that we have at home a great demand for the very article that can be easiest manufactured here. The machinery belonging to Mr. H. M. Crane, now operated in San Francisco, and which is to be brought here and put to work in Oregon if the production of flax can be guaranteed to keep it in operation, is calculated for the manufacture of shoe threads and twines, and these very articles are used in the manufacture of fishing nets and for sewing up grain, wool and flour sacks, of the value of half a million dollars annually. This of itself would be a great business for the enterprising manufacturer and in case the assurance is given that the

staple will be raised here it will also build up a good manufacturing business among us, and so pave the way for greater manufactures to come. The matter is of no trifling importance as tending to add greatly to the productive industries of Oregon.

TAKING TOLL.

Perhaps our people do not fully understand the exactions we are made to suffer from the State of California, and we confess that we failed to appreciate our humiliating position until Mr. O. Dickinson lately handed us, for inspection, some freight bills for seeds he received over the Central Pacific railroad, via San Francisco. The railroad bill and the transfer company's bill each had a small charge made as "State Toll," from which it appears that when merchandise passes through California, that great State levies tribute upon it, and makes Oregon pay toll on every trifling of goods coming through her territory. We call attention to this matter for the purpose of having our people know what contemptible imposition is practiced upon them, and to account for the unhappy prejudice so generally entertained in Oregon towards California. We also desire to have the legality of the "California State Toll" investigated, for the first article of the Constitution of the United States seems to prohibit it, and if taking of such toll is not unconstitutional what is to hinder any State from imposing such toll or tax on goods that pass through its boundaries as virtually to prohibit internal commerce between States that lie on either side? This matter is one of great importance, and unless this "State toll" is a different matter from what it would seem to be, our State occupies a humiliating position, and should resent as an imposition this embargo that seems to be laid on our efforts to establish a direct commerce with the East.

Not Much Wheat Left.

It is a remarkable fact that the wheat is so closely shipped out of the country that our great flouring mills will be apt to soon exhaust the stock on hand and the sound of the grinding will be low until we have another harvest supply. There is, of course, some wheat left in the State, but it is generally in the hands of well to do farmers who are holding their stock for fancy prices, which they may or may not realize. Probably the mills will procure transient lots of wheat to more than supply the local demand, but many of them will hardly accomplish much more than half a year's work the present season. The interest in the wheat market has not much significance to wheat raisers except as it relates to the future. If we are to have good prices the coming season, and the heavy sowing produces an average yield, the Oregon farmer will realize a prosperity that will be enviable. But we must not be too sanguine and spend our money before it is earned.

New Advertisements.

The Pioneer Oil Co's. advertisement will be found in another column, and is worthy of the attention of all who have ground suited to flax and which they wish to put in order for wheat, as the common opinion of those who have tried flax is that wheat does about as well after flax as after a summer-fallow.

Pelton's Six-Fold Horse-Power is to be extensively manufactured in Salem and their advertisement will give you information about it. We have published a great deal of very conclusive evidence as to the value of this horse-power.

Hodge Snell & Co., advertise that they sell you Rubber Paint, premium quality, and have also sheep dips of various kinds; also that they will be in the market this season with plenty of their quill and gopher extirminator, which we and others tried last year and found a dead sure thing.

H. S. Jory, of South Salem, advertises a horse-power for sale, and any one wanting such a piece of machinery will do well to call on him and get a good bargain.

Remember Vick.

The ladies all know how much flowers add to the attractiveness of their houses, and now is the time to order flower seeds and bulbs of James Vick, the great florist and seedsmen of the United States, at Rochester, N. Y. We send on annually for our own supply, and have done so regularly for many years, and always find that Mr. Vick is a reliable man to deal with. His "Floral Guide" is a very beautiful as well as valuable work.

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