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BY TELEGRAPH.

Salt Lake, Oct. 28.—The examination before Commissioner Sprague of the case of Miles for marrying three young women at the Endowment house on Thursday last was continued today. John T. Caine, Jr., married about the same time, knew but little that occurred, and finally declined to answer as bound by secrecy by oath to the Mormon church. The witness was excused. George Reynolds, who was convicted of bigamy about two years ago and was sentenced, but whose case is now before the U. S. supreme court, was called as a witness. He took the names on a piece of paper of ladies entering the Endowment house for marriage. Did not know what became of the paper or where the record was kept, and finally refused to answer on the same reason as the first witness, and was excused. Dora Young was examined; although present, she remembered little and finally declined to answer, claiming that to reply would criminate her, and the court adjourned until to-morrow.

Salt Lake, Oct. 29.—The examination of John Miles for the crime of bigamy is still being heard before the U. S. Commissioner. The excitement in the city is unabated. Evidence was introduced to-day of the admissions of the first marriage made by the defendant at the house where the reception was held in honor of the double marriage: John Taylor, president of the Mormon Church, being called as a witness refused to answer the question, "What conversation did you have with defendant two weeks ago?" upon the ground that at that time defendant made confessions to him in his professional capacity as minister of the gospel, and hence he was privileged from being inquired into. Pending the argument which the refusal brought forth, the court adjourned until to-morrow. The record of marriages has not yet been produced.

Letter from Iowa.

KEOKUK, IOWA, Oct. 5, 1878. After flying along from Oregon to Iowa, I have settled down in the city of Keokuk, in the extreme southeast of the State on the Mississippi river, a fine busy little town of about 15,000 inhabitants. The city is connected with Illinois by a splendid bridge. It is an immense structure and is used for the R. R., wagons and footmen, a track for each.

Our city has three lines of steamers arriving daily and seven lines of railroads center here, making an immense business. The business part of town contains some fine brick structures, splendid residences can be seen every where, and numerous shade trees, making the town look quite cheerful. Several very fine churches with their steeples towering to immense heights, almost every denomination represented. Going a little northeast from Keokuk you have a fine view of the old "Father of Waters." Thrifty farms and fine showy residences can be seen for miles up the river to old Nauvoo. The rapids of the Mississippi can be seen and the immense locks which cost the government over \$4,000,000. What a grand old river this is, draining one of the largest agricultural regions of the world, carrying its hundreds of steamers and thousands of freights. All this is grand to look upon, but I would not give one look at the old Cascade Range and our snow peaks for all of it. You must remember I am an Oregonian and never out of sight of a mountain till here, and it seems strange to look forever either way and have no back ground, and when you speak of our fine scenery, four or five snow peaks at once and mountains 75 or 100 miles away, they think you are exaggerating some; lots of people here never saw a mountain. And how I miss Oregon's climate, and how I find Iowa's mosquito; I remember one getting over the mountains. They seem to like an Oregonian splendid, and pay strict attention to me. For the last week we have had very warm and sultry weather, and to me quite oppressive. I look for a cool breeze in the afternoon, so we have there, but it never comes, keeps getting hotter and hotter till night, and then hotter and hotter till morning. A splendid country for corn, and some of the finest ears I ever saw. I had no idea corn could grow so very large. I attended the Des Moines County Fair and find quite a difference in the products here and there. But we are ahead in every thing I saw except corn; wheat here looks more like something else, and good wheat here would not be wheat at all with us on the Pacific Coast. Their fruit is far inferior in every respect often being quite wormy, which was a great curiosity to me. They exhibited some splendid stock. Hogs and cattle hard to beat. Some good running and trotting for a county fair. The floral department was fine. Some fine furniture manufactured in Burlington, and some excellent cooking on exhibition. But the most attractive feature, and one that drew the largest crowd, was a man painted and dressed like a savage. He rode a few times around the track and then jumping from his horse he was surrounded immediately by a

large crowd eager to see the Indian (?) He had a heavy mustache and short light hair. But they thought him an Indian for all that. Health throughout the country is poor, and ague and fever are prevalent. For climate and production give me Oregon, and you who live there should be satisfied, for I think you are in as good climate as the U. S. affords, and when I am told of the damage storms do here in the warm seasons, then I think of our mild climate. I have seen several roofs made new after the hurricane has passed, and almost every house has rods to conduct the lightning to the ground and protect the building. I have found a hole in the ground and when a storm comes you can find me in it.

A. G. DEARBORNE.

AMENDED SCHOOL LAW.

House bill No. 120, which became a law, amends sections 8, 10, 11, 12, 25, 34, 37, 43 and 46, chap. 4, miscellaneous laws, relating to common schools. Section 8 is amended, so that instead of holding a state teachers' institute at the capital once in each year, the State Superintendent shall hold a State teachers' association once in each year, at such time and place as he considers best. Section 10 is amended to provide that the Superintendent shall issue a circular to county Superintendents, giving list of studies to be taught, and wholesale prices of school books. The latter shall write after each study the series of books preferred and return same, and the books receiving the votes of a majority of county Superintendents shall be the authorized text books in the public schools for four years.

Section 11 provides that in case no books shall receive a majority vote, the decision shall be again left to county Superintendent and not to State Superintendent, as in present law.

Section 12 is amended by adding a proviso that when the persons in any school district between the age of 4 and 20, as shown by the clerk's yearly report, shall equal 1,000, or more, the directors shall have a right to select text books for high schools only; and provided further that the Board of Education can order the State Superintendent, at any time they see fit, to issue special circulars to county Superintendents to take a new vote in regard to any new text book, or series. When in the judgment of the State Board, books or series in use are supplied at an unreasonable price, or are found to be excelled by more recent publications; it is further provided that county Superintendents shall be immediately called on to select a series of text books to go into use within six months thereafter.

Section 25 defines the duties of State Superintendent. Subdivision 3 of this section provides that when a district containing 50 scholars is too large to accommodate all, a new district may be formed upon application of persons representing 15 or more scholars. Subdivision 4 provides that apportionment of school funds shall be made by county Superintendents the 3rd Monday in March and 1st Monday of June in each year. Subdivision 9 requires the county Superintendent to visit schools taught under his certificates at least once in six months.

Section 34 is amended to require the annual election in school districts to be held the first Monday in March instead of April in each year.

Section 37 is amended to require at least six months in each year in all districts containing 1,000 scholars between 5 and 20 years of age, a high school to be kept for teaching such branches as the directors may prescribe.

Section 43 is amended thus:—"Any citizen of this State shall be entitled to vote at a school meeting who is 21 years of age and has resided in the district thirty days immediately preceding the meeting, and who has property in the district on which he or she pays a tax."

Section 46 is amended to make schools supported by a tax free to scholars six years of age and over, instead of four years.

FISHERIES.

Senate bill No. 11, which became a law, creates the office of fish commissioner for the Columbia river. It is designed also to regulate the taking of salmon, and to encourage the establishment of hatching houses. The bill is in harmony with the act of Washington territory. The commissioner to be appointed under it is to exercise general supervision over fisheries, consider and report upon the same in all branches, and co-operate with the commissioner of Washington territory. Fishermen must procure license from said commissioner; owners of boats using gill nets are to pay \$10 for a license for one season for every one used; for weir or trap, \$50, and for dip net \$2; and every fisherman working is to pay \$5. The commissioner is to be allowed a fee of 25 cents for each license issued to a man; 50 cents for license to boat; \$1 for license to seine or trap, and 25 cents for dip net, to be reserved out of the moneys received for licenses. The fund arising from issuing of licenses shall be paid to any person or persons carrying on a hatchery; or if there are more hatcheries, to be divided among them.

MECHANICS' FAIR, PORTLAND.

W. Sweet has a stack of huge bellows, enough to blow all the fires in Oregon. They are very well made.

La Chapelle, the famous boat man, has a boat that excites universal admiration. It is perfection. Nothing could exceed its grace of shape in every particular, or its beauty of finish in every detail. Even the oars are marvels.—No paint mars the lovely graining of the wood.

W. J. Van Schuyver has the best light in the building for the exhibition of fine whiskies and champagnes, which are done up in tasteful packages.

C. A. Burchart has still wines which the connoisseurs pronounce to be of superior quality.

S. Sherlock has filled a corner of the gallery with a magnificent collection of saddles, harness, horse blankets, plated bosses for saddlery finishing, &c. A very fine harness attracts attention. So do the handsome saddle resplendent in stamped leather and plush. There are some good English saddles shown.

Geo. Bramish has a nice display of whips of every size.

D. Metzger has a very useful exhibit of hair rope and glue. The printers pronounce the latter to be of extra quality.

H. T. Hudson has a beautiful lot of scales, dies, stamps, door-plates, coffin-plates, &c. The latter are real enough to cause a poor printer to shudder in expectation of his "latter end."—Mr. Hudson's work is all executed with great neatness.

Mr. Rumbles has a large display of nice soap in a prominent position. His soap is manufactured with a machine warranted to do its work in ten minutes. Soap made easy.

The Oregon soap works also contribute a goodly amount of material for the cleansing of the million.

Wm. Bond & Co., have a pyramid of kerosene cans filled with home made matches which are highly recommended. The question is how do you get the matches out without setting them on fire or sweating?

D. Mackay has a beautiful lot of plaster of Paris center pieces and other ornaments for house decoration.

L. D. Kuester has some very fine wood carvings, designed for patterns for iron castings of an ornamental character.

A. G. Rockfellow has a very serviceable gate which he takes pleasure in showing to visitors. It is very unique, has excellent fastenings, can be opened by foot or carriage passengers, provides against trouble from shrinkage or swelling, on account of the weather and is locked with a single motion of a finger.

Wm. Beck & Son show a case of elegant guns, pistols, knives, opera glasses, &c. Their finish is very fine.

Zan Bros., have a large display of very useful well made articles of wooden ware, consisting of tubs, buckets, churns, sieves, brooms, baskets, meat-safes, kitchen articles generally. There is a monster broom that looks as if it might be the "bosom of destruction" itself. We are glad to see such fine specimens of Oregon work.

F. Boon shows specimens of models of all kinds of saws, planers, belting, planing knives, blind wiring machines and mill supplies. His "circular saw chisel tooth" can be instantly removed and replaced. His hand saw works like a sewing machine and looks like a giant imitation. A sand papering machine polishes off surfaces with lightning speed. His molding machine planes and molds four sides at once. The small boys were delighted with his little wagon, to which was attached a model of Trullinger's brakes. He exhibits for Newbury, Chapman & Co., the model of a "patent automatic gate." Easily opened by a person driving.

John Dolnerbury & Co., exhibit steam pumps, chandeliers, &c., &c.

Newbury, Chapman, & Co., show many first class Agricultural Implements, most notable of which is the self binding Osborne Harvester, that goes into the standing grain and turns off the bound bundles at the rate of fifteen acres a day, the greatest harvesting idea of the age. The ghosts of our forefathers must get excited over its performance and mourn their wasted time. N. C. & Co., also show the Centennial machine that cleans all sorts of grain ready for market. Wheeler's No. 6 reaper and mower; and No. 3 reaper are also here, shown by this same house. They have also a goods for farming use, including implements of every description.

Mr. Gates shows the steering apparatus invented by him and in use on the steamboats of the O. S. N. Co.

A well built double carriage is shown by the Union Carriage factory.

Mr. Holmes has the centennial scroll saw. J. K. Cooper of California shows spectacles, opera glasses, microscopes, barometers, &c.—The microscope showed us the wonders in a drop of vinegar—a world of animated horrors, defying description. One of his opera glasses showed us a different scene—Mrs. Scott-Siddons in the role of Juliet.

Mr. Nation, an octogenarian, shows turned and carved articles in bone and ivory; a very attractive exhibit.

Sanborn, Vail, & Co., made most of the frames used by Buchtel in his display of photographs, and those frames are charming novelties, worthy of more perfect description than your columns can afford.

Sewing machine, and pianos and organs were at the fair in strong force and added to the display.

Benj. Morris, aged 14, has a miniature wheelbarrow on exhibit.

Wm. Pfunder has a tall pyramid of cases of "Oregon Blood Purifier" and "Ague cure," which we hope is not an indication of bad blood in the wet-foot nation. He shows many other things in his line, and his preparations above alluded to have well deserved popularity.

Plummer's dried fruit was attractive as a display, giving valuable proof of the importance of the process that gentleman has invented and made such a success of. The "Original Plummer," and the renowned elocutionist, "Yankee Plummer," exercised their respective talents in showing off this exhibit. We did not learn if "Yankee Plummer" had been put through this process, or not, but it looks that way. The "original" seems to have fattened on it, however.

P. Lineason, of Oregon City, has a fine display of fruits and vegetables, the largest of which latter were barred for want of room.

I might mention dried-beef slices, ground spices, Father Diezman's onion squashes, lager beer, yeast powders, flavoring extracts, etc., but time and space will not permit. Brazell's Apiary showed honey in the comb—beautiful; these are novelties in hives.

The McLoren's have flour and meal on exhibit, showing the variety of their make, and extent of their business.

E. C. Barnes has a satisfactory exhibit of candies and confections—satisfactory because we sampled the same and found nothing objectionable, far the contrary.

This fails me to describe all the fruits and nice things, works in iron, brass, stoves and fixtures, steam engines, and other things that range from a burglar-proof safe to a convict shackle.

Gen. Grant in Spain.

New York, October 18.—A Paris cablegram to the Herald says: The Herald's special correspondent accompanying General Grant telegraphs from Vittoria that the ex-President and party arrived in that city yesterday, having entered Spain from France by the Bayonne route. As the train drew up at the platform General Grant alighted from his carriage. The ranking officer of the delegation of General on the staff of King Alfonso advanced and saluting the visitor, welcomed him, in the king's name, to the Iberian peninsula. General Grant expressed his thanks in a few words and accepted his proffered courtesy, and the train moved out of the little village toward the war-begrimed city of San Sebastian. At San Sebastian Grant was received by Emilio Castelar, ex-President of the Spanish Republic. To the well-known statesman and journalist, General Grant was exceedingly cordial. This morning (Wednesday) Grant was received at Vittoria by King Alfonso at the residence of the Alcalde. The King, who speaks English fluently, said that he had a curiosity to meet the General, whose civil and military career was so familiar to him. He said there was no man living whom Spain would more gladly honor. The interview was long and cordial and much good feeling was shown on both sides. At 11 o'clock, Grant, King Alfonso and his splendid retinue of Generals left the King's official residence to witness the military maneuvers which were to take place on the historic field of Vittoria, where the French, under Joseph Bonaparte and Jourdan, were finally crushed in Spain by the Allies under Wellington, June 21, 1813. King Alfonso and General Grant rode at the head of the column side by side, his Majesty pointing out the objects of interest. When the vicinity of the famous field was reached, they halted for a few minutes to indicate the location of the different armies on that famous June morning. Then General Coucha was called to the side of the King and introduced to General Grant. Several other distinguished officers were also presented. The King and his guest returned to the city late in the afternoon. To-night he dines with the King and to-morrow Grant will review the troops. To-morrow night he leaves for Madrid. Altogether, both at the palace and on the field, General Grant's reception was royal in pomp and magnificence.

Card.

The undersigned takes this opportunity to express his thanks to Knapp, Burrell & Co., by their representative Mr. Myers, for the use of a Garden City plow, in a trial of skill by boys under 18 years of age in plowing on the Fair grounds on Thursday Oct. 17th, 1878, wherein I was awarded the first premium, there being two other competitors.

JOHN JEFFERSON.

THE STATE FAIR NOTES.

Thomas Cross brought in a couple of boxes of mesquite or velvet grass, in the sod; it was thrifty looking, its long bright green blades were six or eight inches in length. Mr. Cross makes this grass a specialty on his farm, and his success as a stock raiser entitles his opinion to respect; so much has been said in the FARMER about this grass that more comment is unnecessary.

Some large fruit from the egg plant, by Maj. Bruce, lay upon the tables, of a purple variety; one of the specimens measured over twelve inches in circumference. We are not familiar with its use as a vegetable, but it is said to be a nice dish when properly cooked; these were certainly fine samples.

Mr. Delashmut had some broom corn.

Mr. Houston showed some fine sweet potatoes raised on the farm of Mrs. Cox, near Salem; also, some Havana leaf tobacco; also Cuba tobacco in green leaf.

Besawax, by Mrs. Worth.

A gun was shown by N. Neal of North Salem, every part made by himself—lock, stock, and barrel.

N. B. Nation, some carved canes of bone. Quite a creditable herbarium was entered by Master Arthur Collier, aged 12, of Oregon plants and ferns; fifty named varieties.

A quantity of first-class hops by G. J. Dunton.

A little growling was heard over the California Yeast Powder man and his abundant space in the best part of the Pavilion; who, in turn was heard to growl a good deal worse about our rainy days and his meagre returns. His "five hundred dollar piano," which must certainly have cost him at least two hundred dollars, was won by the enterprising firm of Farrar Bro's. of Salem.

Three paint men glared at each other from their corners of the Pavilion, and only one to get the prize. The soap man was squeezed up in a few feet of space and loudly bewailed the fact that he was an Oregonian; he shook his head as he looked at the roomy Californians, and said hard things. There was no sort soap about that man's talk.

The Abalone man comes up yearly with his beautiful shells; he has plenty of room too to sell his goods in, so soft free; and he looks as if he had a good thing, and we guess he did have.

WINE.

There was a large number of swine on exhibition, there being thirteen exhibitors. West & Ellis, of Salem, showed the greatest number, taking first and second premiums, and sweepstakes for best boar of any breed. Fred. West, under eighteen, carries off the blue ribbon for best fat pig under nine months.

Geo. Downing, of Sublimity comes in next in number of entries making seven, taking six first and one second premium.

James Wythecombe, of Hillsboro, makes seven entries, takes five first and one second; carries off the premium for best pig of any kind of breed.

Thomas Cross, of Salem, must look out for his laurels, so hardly won and kept in years past. He enters only five this year, getting three first premiums and two second.

Daniel Clark, of Salem, makes four entries; honors are even, he gets two first and two second premiums.

J. H. Hastings, of Dallas, takes first premium on best breeding sow. The exhibition shows a higher strain than the showing of former years.

POULTRY.

Luther Myers, of Salem, is always ahead in the fancy poultry line, making 21 entries, taking eleven first and ten second premiums. This exhibit comprised all the new varieties: golden and silver spangled Hamburgs, Plymouth Rocks, Leghorns, Black Spanish, etc.; Brown Turkeys, ducks and fancy birds. His son, Dean Myers, showed Guinea Pigs and Spangled Poland.

Grant Scott, a boy of Salem, had best collection of singing birds; Mrs. Matweon, of Woodburn, of fancy birds.

N. M. Short, of Salem, fine geese and Houdan chickens.

R. E. Purver, of Salem, trio of Pyle geese chickens.

Frank Durbin, of Salem, best trio of dark Brahmahs.

A. F. Miller, of East Portland, of light Brahmahs.

E. M. Bonham, Salem, best pair English rabbits, fancy breed.

WHAT WE DID NOT SEE.

Not one cheese of the ordinary dairy kind. Mr. Gobat showed some very nice of the kind similar to the Limberger, but of common table cheese not one, while we have several factories, and in former years there has been keen rivalry. Of butter but one lady, Mrs. Delashmut, competed. She entering for fresh and packed. Of course she got the two ribbons as she does nearly every year. With the finest country in the world for dairy purposes it is a matter for

speculation. Why this important product was not represented in more than one entry.

No matches were brought from the Portland factory, though we dare say more than one was made on the grounds during the Fair, if it was rainy weather.

No brooms—though we manufacture almost sufficient for home use. Mr. McLaren, of Portland, failed to put in an appearance this year, while last year he showed his famous oat meal, also buckwheat, corn meal and cracked wheat.

No good common furniture of home make, such as farmers can afford. No chairs, though excellent chairs and furniture of all kinds are made in almost all of our towns.

Did not see in ladies' department that "best suit of hand-made clothing" that has hung in the Pavilion and taken the premium every year since the Fair was in existence—was done up when it got too yellow by laying by and entered as regularly as the year came around. Guess it was worn out by washing, or perhaps sensible women would not nowadays give a premium for putting one's eyes out with microscopic stitches, while machines are plentiful. Guess every woman in the country has had a chance at some or other to pass on those same articles. Requiescat in pace.

Recent Legislation.

The act passed by our legislature relating to board of canal commissioners amends the former act, providing as follows: The legislature shall biennially elect a canal commissioner, who with the governor and secretary of state, shall constitute said board, keep minutes of the proceedings, register all water craft passing the locks, and keep an account of freight, and passengers transported through the same. In case of vacancy the governor shall appoint such commissioner, whose salary shall not exceed one thousand dollars a year. The prosecuting attorney of the proper district is required to conduct legal proceedings that may arise, in the interest of the state.

The appropriation for the state capitol building, amounted to \$25,760 from the soldier's bounty and relief fund, and \$3,250 from the capitol building fund, in all \$29,000, is to be expended under direction of the governor and secretary of state, who also authorized to employ a janitor for the building at a cost not exceeding \$900 a year.

An act was passed providing that if the United States pay the state of Oregon the expenses of the Modoc Indian war the treasurer of state shall use such money to pay outstanding Modoc war bonds, by advertising within ten days for sealed bids for redemption thereof, the bids to be opened by the state board and awards made to the lowest bidder, if bids are not above the face value of the bonds.

An act relating to property of married women provides that property owned by a woman at the time of marriage, or acquired thereafter by gift, devise or inheritance, shall not be subject to debts or contracts of the husband, and the wife may manage, sell, convey and devise the same as the husband can his property. The property of either husband or wife shall not be liable for debts or contracts of the other. Action may be maintained by husband or wife against the other for recovery of property of which the other has obtained possession, the same as if they were unmarried. For civil injuries committed by the wife, damages can be recovered of her alone, except in cases where he is jointly responsible. Conveyances or liens from one to the other shall be valid. One may constitute the other his or her attorney in fact. The wife may recover the wages of her personal labor in her own name, and exercise all rights at law in her own name. Neither is liable for the debts of the other incurred before marriage. Expenses of family and education of children shall be chargeable upon property of both husband and wife, or either of them. We have here an act which seems to be pretty well up to the advanced claims of those who have been laboring for a law which would give woman control of her own property and earnings and put her on an equality in this respect with man.

Died, at Ashland, lately, T. M. Gale, aged about 45. He was a brother of J. N. Gale, both of whom are well known to the newspaper fraternity.