

News Department.

GENERAL NEWS.

Senator Dolph presented to the Senate The Ohio cyclone is even worse than originally reported. Dr. D. S. Baker, of Walla Walla, is seriously ill. Jack Cole, one of the survivors of the Jeannette, is dead. Olympia charges \$300 per annum for liquor license after July 1. A heavy fire in Brooklyn cost the owners of property \$150,000. Senator Anthony of Rhode Island, and Judge Reagan of Texas, are ill. The steamer Earle burned on lake Washington, back of Seattle. Sheriff Adkins, of Boon county, West Va., was waylaid and murdered. In Southern Utah half the cattle have died of the unusually severe winter. The New York assembly has defeated the prohibitory liquor law 60 to 63. Seattle newspapers say the fruit crop of 1884 will be the heaviest ever known. A petition from the Portland Board of Trade against coinage of more silver dollars. Governor Ordway, of Minnesota, has had to give \$10,000 bail on a charge of bribery. Devastating forest fires are causing great damage in Michigan and in Pennsylvania. Congress is discussing the tariff and is no nearer a conclusion now than when they began. Frank James has reached Boonville, Mo., where another farce of a trial will be gone through. The Spanish minister pronounces the report that Cuba is to be sold to Mexico as absurd. Fire at Glendale destroyed the hotels, a store and saloon, and some other buildings. Mostly insured. Baptists have a church at Salt Lake that cost \$13,000 and has made many converts from Mormonism. The effect of no legislation for relief of whiskey manufactures is that a great quantity is being exported. Barclay & Hatch, commission dealers, San Francisco, have failed and are under arrest, charged with fraud. Arrangements are making to cancel the lease of the Oregon and California road to the Transcontinental. Immigration of pauper laborers into Pennsylvania causes as much feeling there as China labor does here. The citizens of Scio have determined to have an old fashioned basket picnic on the Fourth of July. Prominent Democrats commend the nominations of Tilden and Payne for President and Vice President. The California assembly has carried an amendment to the Constitution to remove railroad commissioners. Somebody charges Edmunds with stock jobbery and he denies it and offers his private account books as evidence. During a dense fog a train collision occurred near Chicago that killed several and wounded about twenty persons. Frank Cravens, of Washington county, aged 80, after a drinking spree took too much laudanum and died from it. Jackson county prohibitionists nominate for representatives, Joseph Satterfield, and Wm Daley, and a full county ticket. Since the completion of railroads from Mexico to Chicago trade follows the road and mexican merchants are heavy losers. An Englishman has bought land in New Mexico, for grazing, to extent of 378,000 acres and he is trading for 400,000 more. A fire at Panama destroyed property worth half a million dollars. An armed mob plundered and became intoxicated and several were killed. The flurry in the wheat crop is said by dealers to have been caused only by speculation, and without grounds for any permanent advance. Much swindling by pension agents is being developed. They induce soldiers and sailors to pay them large sums when they can do them no good. A cyclone in the Mississippi valley did damage to Rock Island and Davenport. One person was killed and several badly hurt at Davenport. At Kinney, Texas, the foundation of the Methodist church gave way, the building overturned, lights exploded and one woman burned to death. Mrs. Levi Knott lost a Plymouth Rock hen that died trying to swallow a garter snake; she got down eight inches of it but six inches was left that she couldn't get away with. John Mathew, while plowing for A. Thornton, near Vancouver, was thrown under the team when they were frightened by something springing up before them, and killed. In Roseville, New York, a stout girl waked up to find a stout negro had her by the throat. She made a brave fight against three terrible attacks, and actually defeated him and has him in jail. At Audobon Iowa, old man Jellerson was murdered by his son and two sons-in-law. His son was conscience-stricken and confessed. They all agreed to do it because one of the sons-in-law found his wife had not been virtuous and the father was to blame. The family thought he wasn't fit to live and they were about right.

Blaine's friends claim his nomination to be assured as he has so near a majority of all the delegates on first ballot. James R. Keene, the Californian, who went to New York to be a stock broker, has lost \$9,000,000 since January 1, and is pretty well broken up. A telegraph line is now working to Eagle City and Wells, Fargo & Co. run a daily express there. So the "diggings" are within reach of the world. A convention of colored men, not merely political, lately met at Pittsburg and Fred Douglass was slighted. His marriage to a white woman has lost him friends among his own people. Mrs. John Connor, of Albany, wife of the banker, and sister of Henry Failing, when visiting her brother, in Portland, last week, after returning from an evening party, died suddenly. The great walking match of 600 miles in six days between Rowell and Fitzgerald ended in New York the other day in favor of Fitzgerald. Rowells backers say he had a sprained ankle and so lost it. Mrs. A. R. Flint, of Roseburg, who was visiting Portland with her husband, was taken with neuralgia of the stomach and died suddenly at the residence of U. S. Marshal E. S. Kearney, last Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Flint have been residents of Roseburg from pioneer days. She was a lady of lovely character, aged over 70. The Marine National Bank of New York has failed. Capital four millions, thought to be a bad failure, others say not, and due entirely to failure of Grant & Ward. This firm consists of Gen. Grant and his son and others, and they again claim that one of the firm, (Ward) has left with half a million dollars. The robbers and murderers who attacked the Medicine Lodge Bank, Kansas, and killed the officers of the bank, were pursued and lodged in the calaboose at Harper, Kansas. A mob gathered and one robber opened fire on them. They riddled him with bullets and took the other three out and hanged them. Two of the robbers were the marshal and his deputy of the town of Caldwell, Kansas. In the Big Bend Country. The editor of the FARMER has visited the eastern part of the Big Bend region but not the country west of the Grand Coulee, which is attracting a larger immigration this spring. The Spokane Chronicle of recent date has a communication from "H. W. C" who thus describes a journey made early this spring to that part of Washington, now as Douglass county, and containing seven hundred population. The party reached Cottonwood where wheels, was discarded and sleds made in their place. He says: We were delayed here three and one-half days on account of blocked roads and cold weather. In the mean time our party was increased to twenty-one by new arrivals, sleds repaired and everything gotten in readiness for a start. After leaving Cottonwood we found no more difficulty in getting through, and on the evening of the fifteenth day out reached the "promised land." We were warmly welcomed by Mr. Mann, one of the pioneer settlers and town-site owner, and Mr. Burgoyne, county auditor for the new Douglas, comprising the Big Bend, who had wintered there. After pitching tents, unloading wagons and looking after the comfort of the inner man, the evening was pleasantly spent in relating our "experiences" coming out, the news and doings of the outside world particularly of Spokane, etc. Our first impression of the country was decidedly favorable. Coming up out of the Coulee as we enter the now famous region, the view spread out before us is one of picturesque grandeur, and forms a striking contrast to the country travelled over the preceding two or three days. Instead of rocks and high hills a gently sloping and rolling prairie extends on all sides as far as the eye can reach. To the north, west and south can be seen the Cascade range following the bend of the Columbia, their lofty and hoary peaks losing themselves among the clouds, while lower down toward the south the Badger mountains rear their stately pine covered tops, and invite the ax of the settler. The snow being of a depth of from ten to twelve inches on the level during our stay, we were unable to make a thorough examination as to the general worth and appearance of the soil as we would have wished or desired. In appearance it is of a light red color, somewhat similar to the clay found east of the Missouri river, and of a depth of from two to six feet. Its productive qualities is of the best in the territory. Vegetables planted the past season even as late as July did well. Wheat and other small grain though but very little was planted, it was demonstrated a success. Claims are being rapidly taken up by actual settlers. The general desire appears to be to locate as near the town-site as possible. The population of the new county is now estimated at seven hundred, and rapidly increasing, very few coming in but who locate. Our party nearly all took up claims and will go on and improve and put in crops the present season. Three or four loaded wagons on an average, with from four to six men with each wagon, came in each day during our stay. Okanogan, the county seat of the new county, situated in the center of this agricultural region, although but a few months of age is a bright and healthy looking infant, and will soon assume metropolitan airs. Lots are selling from \$250 to \$375 with a prospect of a raise

on the first of the month. By May 1st a hotel, restaurant, stores, residence buildings, blacksmith shop, etc., will be under course of erection, while new shanties are springing up and dotting the prairie in all directions; small, but comfortable, sufficient to fill every need until larger and better houses can be built. Lumber is furnished from a mill situated at the foot of the Badger mountains, distant ten miles from Okanogan at twenty dollars per thousand feet and shingles at five dollars per thousand. A tri-weekly stage is now running between Spokane and Okanogan, and the trip is easily made in three days. The rush in has only begun. While coming back we met forty-six teams bound for Okanogan, and we predict by fall all the available land will have been taken by settlers. Those in first have the advantage in having their first choice, those coming later must fall back and take what is left. Parties contemplating going in would advise to start at once. Roads are good and feed plenty for horses along the route. From a private letter to Judge Lewis from Capt. Adams, of Okanogan, Big Bend country, we learn that an abundant supply of water has been struck at a depth of twenty feet from the surface. This settles the only doubt that hung over the Big Bend country, as to whether it would prove all that had been claimed for it. Europe not Dependent on America. In a letter addressed to the committee on canals of the New York Legislature Horatio Seymour says: A false and mischievous idea has grown up in our country that Europe depends upon us for food. This is not true. They can get all they want from many parts of the world—from India, from South America and Australia. In South America vast herds of cattle are killed merely for their hides. The carcasses are left to decay. Great Britain, which buys more of our provisions than any other country, is building railroads in Northern India to cheapen transportation, and is sending farming tools into that region to improve its agriculture. This policy has been followed by a great increase in its production of grain. Within a few years the exports of wheat from India have grown up to many millions of bushels. The government of Europe are trying to lessen our exports, as they give us such heavy balances against them. For this reason Germany and France shut out our pork and other governments show great uneasiness, as we disturb their relationship to their people. Our only course is to undersell other countries. As labor is higher here than elsewhere we must depend upon smaller charges for carrying. That region is fast becoming one of our strong competitors. We only sell to Europe because we have cheaper modes of sending our products to their markets. We have been able to do this because we have cut down the cost of carrying. Our exports grow up as carrying rates are cut down. Railroads have always followed lower rates upon water routes, but the last are the cheapest, as is shown by the table of rates in the report on Commerce and Navigation of the general government. Our agricultural interests are the most important of all. Grub Cakes at Lake Mono. In the American Naturalist for September, Prof. C. V. Riley speaks of Ephydra Californica, an insect inhabiting alkaline and saline waters, the larvae of which occur in prodigious numbers, and form an extensive article of diet among the Indians of the West and Southwest. Prof. W. H. Brewer, while working on the geological survey of California, found that the Indians gather from all around the vicinity of Lake Mono, at specified seasons, to collect the larvae, which are washed up in windrows along the shores. From some interesting notes he has left with Dr. Williston, it seems that this food is called koo chah-bee. The worms are dried and sifted from the sand, the shell being rubbed off by hand, when a yellowish kernel remains, like a small grain of rice—oily nutritious, and not unpleasant to taste. Pulverized and made into cakes, the food reminded Prof. Brewer of the patent meat biscuit that was used during the war, more than of any thing else he could liken it to. There are no fish or reptiles in the lake, but countless millions of these ephydra flies rest on the water and on everything round about it. It is probable that the insect is most washed up by the waves when assuming the puparium state near the surface, and that the yellow kernel referred to is the true pupa, that dries within the puparium. The graduating classes of the Oregon State Normal School at Monmouth this year will consist of nine in the normal class, five in the commercial and three in the collegiate. Commencement day will be June 11th. REPUBLICAN NOMINATIONS. Tillamook County.—County Clerk, H. F. Goodspeed; Sheriff, A. L. Alderman; Commissioners, G. A. Morris and W. N. Vaughn; Assessor, W. T. Baxter; Treasurer, J. J. McCoy; Surveyor, John McPherson; School Superintendent, I. T. Maulsby; Coroner, Erastus McKinley.

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