

THE WEST.

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OUR MAIL SERVICE.

This week the people of Florence and other places along the route to Eugene have been enjoying the results of a government contractor letting a mail contract at starvation prices to irresponsible parties.

This is precisely what parties familiar with the circumstances have predicted would happen ever since the new contractors took charge of the route last July.

Although no doubt the bondsmen will be held responsible for the failure to perform the contract that will not recompense the people living along the route who are the real sufferers from failing to receive their mail.

The business of speculating in mail contracts has grown to be extensive and no doubt the parties engaged in it find it profitable. Their method of procedure is about as follows: They bid on a number of routes, many of which perhaps they know little or nothing about.

When the contracts for carrying the mail on star routes were let by the government last winter, most of them in this part of the country were awarded to eastern speculators. They have hired some one living along the route to carry the mail, and in no case of which we have personal knowledge, does the carrier so employed receive anything like a fair compensation for his labor.

But until the government quits letting contracts to speculators and allowing them to sub-let to who ever they can, these sharks will continue to thrive on their gains in this way, men will be found to carry the mail at a loss to themselves and the people will suffer from an inefficient service.

In a diagram published by Bradstreet it is shown that lumber leads the list as regards value. The value of lumber of the United States in 1890 was nearly \$600,000,000, followed by flouring and grist mill products and clothing.

"THE OREGONIAN a few days ago published a letter from Max Pracht in favor of the enactment of a law for paying a bounty for the destruction of seals and sea lions along the coast."

OUR ELECTION BALLOTS.

Among the laws of this state that we believe should be amended by the legislature is that relating to the form of ballot used in general elections in Oregon.

The law requires that on the official ballots the names of all candidates for each office, except electors of president and vice president and members of the senate and house of representatives, shall be arranged alphabetically as to surnames.

Now it is not the intention to make it difficult to find and mark the names of the candidates for whom it is desired to vote, but rather to make it easy; so that any change in the ballot that will make it easier for the voter to find those names will be an improvement in the ballot.

We believe that if the arrangement of the ballot were changed so that the names of the candidates of each political party for the various offices were placed by themselves with the name of the office for which each has been nominated, that there would be fewer mistakes made in voting.

This change would not in any way interfere with the secrecy of the voting as the names of all the candidates of all the parties could be placed on the ballot and each citizen could then mark his ticket and deposit it in the box with the same secrecy as characterizes the Australian system at present.

SUBSIDIES AND FREE SHIPS IN JAPAN

American Economist: As our readers know Japan has for some time been building up her merchant marine by the aid of liberal subsidies. It is reported that 3,090,000 yen, or slightly more than one and a half million dollars, will be asked for the fiscal year 1898-99.

Heretofore the Japanese have adopted the French plan of subsidizing foreign and home built ships impartially, although the plan has resulted in a convincing failure, which is the favorite stock illustration of those employed by subsidized steamer lines to defeat proposed subsidies that tend to build up competing lines.

The Japanese now propose to change the law for encouraging Japanese commerce by adding to the list of vessels ineligible for subsidies ships built in foreign countries and registered as Japanese after October 1st, 1899.

As Japan has only one yard—viz, at Nagasaki—where large steamers have been built, the above mentioned change looks like a drastic measure. The English shipbuilders who so far have been the chief beneficiaries of the Japanese maritime development assert that the Japanese cannot build ships. But that story is now too old for any influence.

GENERAL NEWS.

Thomas F Bayard secretary of state during Cleveland's first administration died at Dedham, Mass, Sept. 28th, in his 70th year after an illness of six weeks.

The estimates made by a party of U S engineers lately returned from Nicaragua of the cost of constructing that canal place the cost at less than \$1,000,000.

The New York state republican convention nominated Theodore Roosevelt for governor.

The Crocker estate of \$8,000,000, was distributed last week by the probate court at San Francisco, to trustees, who will hold it until the three children become of age.

The New York democrats have nominated A H Van Wyck, a brother of the mayor of New York, as their candidate for governor.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASH, D C, Sept. 26, 1898.

Public interest is now centered in room 263, in the war department, in which daily sessions of the commission appointed by President McKinley, to investigate the conduct of the war began today, and will be held for some time.

The commission was organized by making Gen G M Dodge of Iowa, chairman, and decided for the present to sit with closed doors. The other members of the commission are, Col J A Sexton of Ill; Capt E P Howell of Ga; Maj Gen J M Wilson U S A; Hon C A Denby of Ind; Ex-Governor Woodbury of Vt; Ex-Governor Beaver of Pa; Gen A B McCook of New York and Dr P S Conner of Ohio.

The country is to be congratulated that the suffering of our soldiers is not to be made a partisan political issue in the present congressional campaign. A little while back it looked as though that was just what was going to be done. It would be a national misfortune, because it would have been taken by foreigners to mean that the country, which excited the admiration of the world during the war with Spain, by its united and enthusiastic support of the government, was divided in sentiment, and such a construction by foreigners might have resulted in another war—a far more serious affair than that with Spain.

Two congressmen were having a warm argument over the war, and especially over the difference in the management of the army and that of the navy, in the reading room of a Washington hotel. One of them would invariably close a sentence arraigning some department of the army by asking: "Now, why couldn't that have been done as well as the naval officers did all their work?"

After he had asked the question half-a-dozen or more times, he was surprised to be confronted by a quiet gentleman, who had been sitting near, who calmly said: "I can answer your question." Looking at him somewhat fiercely, the congressman said: "Well, go ahead; tell us why naval work was better done than army work?"

Members of the administration regard the sensational story that there is a plot between the German government and Aguinaldo, the Philippine insurgent general, for the insurgents to drive the Americans off the island this winter and turn them over to Germany, as nothing more than a fake—fall brother to those which may be found in almost any issue of the more notorious of the yellow journals.

The San Francisco Examiner and the West for one year \$2.50 paid in advance.

WANTED—SEVERAL TRUSTWORTHY PERSONS IN this state to manage our business in their own and nearby counties. It is mainly office work conducted at home. Salary straight \$500 a year and expenses—definite, bounded, no more, no less salary. Monthly \$75. References. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. Herbert E. Hess, Pres., Dept. M. Chicago.

This government does not intend to countenance any delay in the evacuation of Cuba by the Spaniards. This may be relied upon as official. If the Spaniards do not begin to get off the island by the time it is considered safe to the health of our soldiers to send them over there—somewhere between the middle and last of October—they will be pushed off by our army of occupation.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

Senator Knykendall is chairman of the committee on education and a member of the committees on medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, and ways and means.

Senator Driver is chairman of the committee on federal relations and a member of the committees on penal institutions and public lands.

Selling's bill introduced in the senate proposes the following as the only salary or compensation for state officers:

Table with 2 columns: Position and Salary. Governor: \$5000; Justice of supreme court (each): 4000; Secretary of state: 4000; Treasurer: 4000; State printer: 3500; Attorney general: 3000; Supt public instruction: 1800; Reporter, supreme court: 1000; Clerk of supreme court: 3000.

The bill provides that no other compensation or fees of any kind whatever shall be allowed.

In the house committees Hon F M Brattain was made chairman of the committee on mining, and a member of the committee on counties. Hon Ivan McQueen was appointed on the committees on internal improvement, and public lands. Hon W F Gray was appointed on the committees on commerce, and food and dairy products.

ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

Last Saturday Marguerite Hord and David Kyle each passed one of those yearly mile stones that mark the journey of life. In honor of the occasion their school mates and friends were invited to spend the afternoon with them at Mr Hord's handsome residence.

Coos Bay News: The receipts of milk at the Coos Bay creamery have been gradually diminishing during the dry season, and at present about 13,000 pounds of milk is received daily, when in the height of season, it nearly reached the 25,000 mark.

It is not everybody who, falling into water from a boat unexpectedly, can get out quick enough to avoid being wet, but we hear that John Tanner did that a few nights ago. In fact so quickly did he scramble back into the boat that he seemed in doubt as to whether he had been overboard or not though some of the bystanders say that part of the time but one foot was visible above the water.

Coast Mail: Fred Schetter of Empire city, returned from San Francisco Thursday. He informs us that he saw the manager of the Oregon Telephone & Telegraph Company and that he told him that his company intended extending their line into Coos county but whether by Myrtle Point or by Drain and Gardiner was not definitely settled.

FUNNY, ain't it? A few weeks ago Theodore Roosevelt was colonel of a Texas regiment, fighting like a son of a gun at Santiago, Cuba. In a few more weeks he may be elected governor of New York. How we Americans do float around.—Morgan News.

THE ROSEBUD Plaindealer says: "A man down at Eugene swallowed a penny and the doctor made him cough up three dollars." Wonder if he was a free silver man.

CITATION.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, For the County of Lane. In the matter of the estate of Alfred Mason Deceased: Citation. To John A. Mason and all other persons concerned: Greeting.

AN EXTRA SESSION.

GOVERNOR LORD CALLS THE OREGON LEGISLATURE TO MEET SEPT. 26.

Governor Lord has issued a proclamation calling an extra session of the Oregon legislature to meet at Salem, Sept. 26. Great interest is taken in this event all over the state.

The Daily Capital Journal at 25c. a month will give more and better information on this subject than any other paper. Besides it will give independent comment on important matters before the body. Send your orders at once. Address, Hofer Brothers, Editors, Salem, Ore.

PERSONALS.

E I Hadsall went to Coquille river the first of the week.

O Dowell and son returned from Portland a few days ago.

Capt E H W Hansen left for San Francisco on the Long.

Frank Alexander is running the band saw at the ship-yard now.

R H Bernhardt returned home Tuesday after a short visit to Eugene.

Mrs E Nicole was a passenger from Eugene on Bang's stage Monday.

James Farnish and wife are now living in the Roger house in Glenada.

A R Buttolph did some surveying on Cox's island this week for Mr Marsh.

J R Cleaves of Marshfield was a passenger to Florence on Barrett's stage Tuesday.

Mrs Captain Robertson and family expect to leave for Whatcom, Wash. in a week or two.

Mrs O W Sutton and children have been visiting in Florence and on North Fork this week.

Jas Ellerby of Marshfield arrived from Portland Tuesday and is helping to calk the new vessel.

Mr and Mrs C Wilson are moving to Dr Thomas' ranch on Tsilicooos lake to spend the winter.

The two calkers, that came up from Marshfield a couple of weeks ago, returned home this week.

A Shultz went to Gardiner Tuesday where he will work repairing the Masonic hall at that place.

Mrs Bundy who has been visiting her daughter Mrs Woodcock expects to leave on Barrett's stage to-day.

A party by the name of Moore arrived here Wednesday on Eugene on a camping trip. They went to the cape yesterday.

Mr and Mrs Wilson of Chicago, who after spending a week in our town, went to the Umpqua and Coos bay have returned to Florence.

W H Spangh with a load of goods arrived at Florence by the Mink Monday. He was on his way home after caring for his hop crop.

George Shultz returned Monday from a trip to the valley. His daughter came in with him for a two week's visit with relatives on Maple creek.

R Mount proprietor of the Mount Saw Works of Eugene spent a few days on tidewater last week. He put the saws at Cushman's mill in order while at Eugene.

Peter Johnson who has been running the band saw in the ship yard left on Barrett's stage Monday for his home at Marshfield. He will be employed on the vessel recently commenced at North Bend.

Mrs K Patterson, who closed a very successful term of school at Mapleton her home in Eugene. She expects to return about November 15th to take charge of the Point Terrace school.

V R Bury, representing Langley, Michaels & Co, wholesale druggists of San Francisco, was in Florence Tuesday and left for Gardiner Wednesday morning. Mr Bury is a successful drummer and while here made many friends and did a good business.

Mrs James Foster and Burns with their household goods departed on the Mink Tuesday afternoon for Eugene where they expect to make their future home. They will spend a few days visiting at head of tide before proceeding on their journey. They have many friends in Florence who regret their departure but hope they will find things to their taste in the new home.

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