

THE WEST.

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FLORENCE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON.

W. H. WEATHERSON

Editor and Proprietor.

Florence, Ore. July 28, 1899.

Enterprising citizens of Eugene and those living along the road to Florence, including that town have subscribed about \$500 to improve the road leading to tidewater in condition that the county will appropriate two dollars to every one subscribed by the citizens. We think the county should not hesitate to meet this proposition of the people.—Broad- cast.

RUSSELL ALGER has resigned from the cabinet and President McKinley has accepted the resignation. The business of the office was turned over to Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn who will have charge till Alger's successor is appointed.

News of the resignation is received with satisfaction by all parts of the country it being the opinion of a large majority of the people that a different head for the department was needed. While it is impossible before his successor is chosen to tell what other changes will be made, it is thought in many quarters that Otis will be recalled and another officer placed in command in the Philippines.

Sleeplessness, melancholia, stomach pains, heart troubles. Hadyan cures. All druggists, 50 cents.

SUBJECT TO TAX.

The convention of judges, commissioners and assessors recently held in Portland appointed a committee consisting J. W. Hobart, D. P. Burton and A. B. Alexander to consider the question of assessing notes secured by mortgage. They asked Attorney General Blackburn for an opinion on the following question.

Are notes secured by mortgage subject to assessment and taxation when held by resident owners? Judge Blackburn answers the question in the affirmative. He says: "An answer to your question involves the consideration of section 1 of article 9, of the constitution of the state, and of sections 2729, 2731 and 2732 of Hill's Annotated Laws, and, perhaps, some other sections thereof.

"Under this provision (section 1, article 9, constitution), only that class of property can be exempted from assessment and taxation which comes clearly within one of these exceptions, and these exceptions are not operative, unless a law has been enacted by the legislative assembly for the express purpose of exempting these excepted classes."

The classes of property exempted are "such only as are used for municipal, educational, literary, scientific religious or charitable purposes."

In section 2731 of the code, in the definition of personal property is included "all debts due or become due from solvent debtors, whether on account, contract, note, mortgage, or otherwise," etc.

"The debt which the note evidences, and the mortgage to secure it, are intangible property and follow the person of the owner."

It seems some assessors have been assessing notes secured by mortgages and others have not. The doubt whether such notes are taxable has arisen from the repeal of the mortgage tax law, under Judge Blackburn's opinion the face of a mortgage debt is taxable no less than under the old mortgage tax law except that only notes held by residents of the state can be assessed. This gives persons living in other states a chance to loan money in Oregon without paying tax on it, while those living here must pay the tax.

Severe nervous spells, bearing down pains, loss of appetite. Hadyan cures. All druggists, 50 cents.

It is a great disappointment to many cities of this state that the boys of the second Oregon regiment voted to be mustered out at San Francisco instead of Vancouver. No doubt all the prominent cities along the route of travel would have made great preparations to welcome home the brave boys and the people would have been glad to honor them in that way. But the matter of saving their travel pay is an important feature with many of them and the people should not be so selfish as to ask the boys to make further sacrifice for what would be but an empty honor so far as the future is concerned.

NEWSPAPERS AS HISTORY

Herald Discriminator. A controversy is said to have arisen between John Fiske and Thomas Wentworth Higginson as to whether newspaper reports of events are of high value as materials for history, Fisk taking the affirmative side and Higginson the negative.

Of course Fiske is correct. He is not only a much greater historian than his antagonist in this dispute, but is a far better authority on a question of this kind. Even in these days, when the public printing offices of the leading European governments and of the United States, especially of the United States, turn out blue, red and yellow books and executive documents with a profusion altogether unknown in previous ages, the average person would have but a vague idea of what was going on in his country or in the outside world if he were forced to rely on these sources for his information. Even the professional historian would be hampered if he were restricted to this particular field for his data.

It, during the excavation by Schliemann on the sites of Troy, Mycenae and other Greek cities, he had dug up a few newspapers, providing there had been any in the old days when these towns were in their prime, what floods of light they would have thrown upon the doings and life of the people of their locality in their time.

They would have told a more vivid tale of the customs, passions and ambitions of the denizens of those old towns of thirty or forty centuries ago than was ever imparted by the urns and obelisks which have been brought to the light. Xenophon has many of the qualities of a good reporter. His style is direct, gossipy and picturesque. He makes that 800 or 1000 miles of the retreat of the Ten Thousand up the valley of the Tigris to the Black Sea familiar ground to modern readers.

Caesar's simple, pointed and concentrated narrative has made the campaign in Gaul enact itself over again to sixty generations of men. Yet if a modern newspaper reporter or two had been present with those old Greeks and Romans they would have thrown side lights on the events and conditions which would have reconstructed the whole scheme of society of those far off days.

One of the drawbacks to the investigator into the early history of the United States is that there were very few newspapers printed in those days, and the files of only a small portion of them have been preserved.

Niles' Register, a weekly paper printed in Baltimore, which was started in 1811 and was continued until 1849, the younger Niles conducting it after his father's death, is the chief reliance for the political history of the early part of the period which it covered. Any one of half a dozen papers printed in Baltimore today, however, has more news in a single issue than Niles printed in five or six editions.

The newspapers of the present time give every event and issue in all aspects. They give it earlier, fuller and in better shape than was done in the past, or than can be done by any government precaution. They provide the "abstract and brief chronicles of the time" with an enterprise and a fidelity which make them of the highest value as a relax of the life of the period.

John Fiske speaks for the guild of professional historians when he places his high estimate upon the worth of newspaper narrative as material for the history of a nation or an age.

WHO IS TO BLAME.

Women as well as men are made miserable by kidney and bladder trouble. Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root the great kidney remedy promptly cures. At druggists in fifty cent and dollar sizes. You may have a sample bottle by mail free, also pamphlet telling all about it. Ad dress, Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

IMPROVED TRAIN SERVICE.

Effective Feb. 12th, the Northern Pacific will inaugurate double train service between Portland and all points east. Trains will leave Portland at 11:30 a. m. and 11 p. m. daily. These trains will both be first class and fully equipped in every respect, heated by steam, vestibuled, standard Pullman and tourist sleeper, dining cars and colonist sleeping cars, with through sleeping cars to Missouri River points via Billings, which renders the service now offered by the Northern Pacific unequalled by any other transcontinental line. The only line to the Buffalo Hump territory. See that your tickets read via the Northern Pacific to all points east or south. For further information call on address, R. McMurphy, General Agent, Eugene, Or.

KEEPING HOUSE IN A STOMACH.

Fishing Gazette. If a boat is anchored in any one of the channels which separated the quicksands of the mouth of the Thames, when the tide is running fast during calm summer weather, multitudes of jelly fish may be seen floating just below the surface. Some are no bigger than tadpoles, and they all have some curious markings on the top, and move by contracting and expanding the lower parts of their bodies.

Hour after hour these beautiful things float by, and their numbers are incalculable. If one is caught with the hands, the fingers usually perforate its jelly-like structure, and if it is placed on a board the creature seems to run away in the form of water.

Now a great many of the larger kinds when carefully examined, are found to have within their large stomachs a small white shrimp with most beautiful emerald colored eyes. It was supposed that these shrimps formed the food of the jelly fish, or medusae, as they are properly called, but careful investigation proved that these lively little creatures with beautiful eyes only exist in the large medusae, and that they make the stomach of these wandering masses of animal jelly their home and lair.

The shrimp soon dies if taken from its shelter, and specimens of it are never found swimming with the common shrimps which live in the sea around our coasts.

The shrimp lives at the expense of the jelly fish, and feeds upon some of the small creatures which are entangled by the peculiar structure of its mouth.

The jelly fish floats along collecting food, and killing every small living thing that touches its stinging body, while the shrimp enjoys itself and lives inside, out of danger, and in great comfort.

The shrimp swims in and out, and is never harmed by the deadly poison of the wonderful sharp stings of the medusa.

Now the most wonderful part of the singular history is how the jelly fish and the shrimp come together. There are no jelly fish in the winter and early spring, and the whole of them die in the autumn, shrimps and all. Before dying the shrimp leaves the stomach of the jelly fish and lays its eggs at the bottom of the shallow sea.

The jelly fish lays thousands of tiny eggs, which being covered with small, movable hairs, row themselves into quiet, rocky nooks on the coast and settle down. These eggs become adherent to pieces of shell or stone, and do not turn to jelly fishes any more than butterfly's eggs turn to a butterfly.

A stem springs from them, and branches arise from it all covered with tiny cups, whose rims are crowned with small arms, called tentacles. This is the first stage of a jelly fish's life. Now the shrimp's eggs hatch about the same time as the stem just mentioned begins to grow, and the young shrimp is not at all like the old one; it has a big head, a small body, and very long legs.

In the first of their existence the jelly fish and the shrimp are separate, and unlike what they subsequently turn to. As the warm weather comes on, the stem with its branches and cuplike ends begins to bud, and after a while out of the buds spring lively jelly fish, which soon swim off. About this time the young shrimp casts off its skin and grows into the form of the old one, and invariably seeks shelter in the stomach of the first young jelly fish it comes across in its swimming to and fro.

This extraordinary circle of events goes on year after year, and the reason why the young shrimp should seek an animal totally unlike itself and very fatal to other shrimps is one of those things in nature that no one can understand. Certainly no other kind of shrimp could live in the medusa's stomach.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

Washington, July 17th, 1899. Because the law under which General Nelson A. Miles has been acting Secretary of War in the absence of the secretary and the assistant secretary, was put on the statute books a long time ago, there is a disposition to regard the occurrence as without significance. As a matter of fact it was very significant—significant of a very radical change in the relations between Gen. Miles and the administration, or of an attempt to trap Miles into attempting to make some use of his temporary authority that would make trouble for him. A little thought will convince most persons of this fact. The law is an old one, directing the general commanding the army to become acting secretary of war during the absence of the secretary and the assistant secretary from Washington, but does anybody suppose that while Gen. Miles was publicly criticizing the acts of the war department, and Secretary Alger was scheming to find some plausible way of deposing Miles from command of the army, that anything could induce the secretary and assistant secretary to have absented themselves, at once, even for a single day. Their doing so now was for a purpose, even if that purpose is unknown. It is said that no papers, requiring the signature of the secretary, were carried to Gen. Miles while he was acting secretary,—in short while he was legally the acting secretary, steps had been taken in advance, which prevented his performing any duties pertaining to that position. If a trap was set for General Miles, he was wise enough to avoid being caught. He was prepared to perform any duties before him, but he did not seek to make duties.

Comptroller Tracewell, of the treasury department, who was viciously attacked by the professional civil service reformers, because of his action, last spring, in deciding that deputy U. S. marshals were not "federal officers" within the meaning of the law, says the civil service commission might easily have found some live question to occupy the time they used in writing to Secretary Gage, requesting that he direct the comptroller to review the decision referred to, because that decision had been endorsed by one of the U. S. supreme court, and even had it been reversed by the same high authority, the question would be a live one, because of the recent civil service order of the president, which specifically places deputy marshals outside of the civil service rule. Speaking of the harsh criticism of Secretary Gage, by the Civil Service Reform League of New York, which Mr Gage has answered at length, Mr. Tracewell said: "These gentlemen apparently do not recognize their best friends, for Secretary Gage is and always has been a staunch friend and supporter of the civil service reform principles. I have watched his course carefully and have never known of a single instance where he has made the least exception on account of the position of the man he wanted for the service, and I venture the assertion that he has never made an appointment or approved of a promotion that was not in his judgment, for the good of the service, and it is a mistake for anyone to attack his course in the name of civil service reform."

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The gentlemen who asked Secretary Gage to have the comptroller review his decision, overlooked the fact that neither the secretary of the treasury, nor the President himself, has any authority over such a decision which only the courts can change or upset. The comptroller is nearer a real czar in authority than any official we have. Senator Scott, of W. Va., who has lately returned from an extended trip on the Pacific slope, summarized his impression of public sentiment in that section thusly: "The advocacy of expansion is not confined to any party. The commercial view of extending the possessions of the U. S. appeals strongly to the people of the Pacific Slope, and there is little difference of opinion on account of politics. Regarding the situation in the Philippines, there is a very general belief that Gen. Otis has failed to measure the full extent of the insurrection, and he is criticized for not demanding long ago, a larger army, so as to clean up the work of suppressing the insurrection. The action of the President in enlarging the army for the purpose of making a vigorous campaign, is approved.

According to the opinion of ex-Senator Dubois, who is now in Washington, the policy of expansion will cause the republicans to abandon the protective tariff policy and advocate the raising of all money by internal revenue taxation. He also expresses the opinion that the democrats will advocate protection and oppose expansion, and that both parties will oppose trusts in their national platform. Should his tariff predictions prove true, many of the older voters in

both parties, will have trouble in finding out just "where they are at" politically. Of course, Mr. Dubois has no better facility for guessing what either party will do, than hundreds of other intelligent men have. His opinion is merely given for what it is worth.

"ARISES THROUGH JEALOUSY."

"It is a foolish personal jealousy that opposes the ceremony of 'corner stone' laying by Ancient Freemasons. This is a custom time honored and venerable. Than the ritual outline of this work in Masonry there is nothing more beautiful and appropriate and were these ceremonies left to the hands of whoever chose to execute them, in many instances a beautiful proceeding would be omitted and those words and phrases which may cause better deeds or thoughts to spring forth from the human breast would be lost forever, a thing which our world can poor afford." Oregon State Journal.

We hold a different opinion in some respects from that expressed by the Journal in the above paragraph. The corner stone is a very important part in the construction of a building and it is necessary that it be properly laid. It has become a custom that laying the corner stone of important buildings shall be accompanied by appropriate exercises. These are usually arranged for and conducted by the company, sect or society owning the building. If a church, the ceremonies are carried out by the denomination owning it. If designed for a lodge room the exercises are conducted by the order to which it belongs. If for a city hall, a court house, or other public building, representatives of all parties, sects and denominations, should be given places in all public exercises connected with its construction whether it be laying the corner stone or dedicating the building. When any such exercises connected with a public edifice constructed with public funds and paid for by taxation, are given over to any order, sect or denomination it is a violation of the spirit and traditions of this country. No matter how beautiful their ceremonies may be, it is not in keeping with our free institutions for such exercises to be carried out in that way. In countries where there is an established religion such services are usually held under the direction of the church. But in the United States where there is no established church, things are very different. Just imagine what a howl would be raised among our protestant friends if the ceremonies of dedicating some public buildings were given over to the Catholics church.

And would not the Catholics have the same right to object if such ceremonies were directed by the protestants? But are there not just as good reasons for objecting to such exercises being carried on under the auspices of a secret order? We think there are.

A custom may be very old and still be wrong and we hold that it is wrong for the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of a public building to be conducted by a secret order as has been done in this state twice in the past few months.

FARM NOTES.

Mississippi Valley Democrat. Tomatoes will not be so easily affected with rot if the vines are fastened to upright stakes. An excellent way is to take one hoop to four staves sharpen the staves at the lower ends and drive them into the ground; the hoops should be fastened to the staves with nails and they will be found better than wire.

At this season of the year, when most of the produce of the farm is being made ready to ship, the farmer should keep a sharp lookout for market reports of prices. The one who does will know how to sell more intelligently and will have a great advantage over him who ships his produce to the commission merchant and then waits for the return in order to learn the prices.

"No Eye Like the Master's Eye." You are master of your health, and if you do not attend to duty, the blame is easily located. If your blood is out of order, Hood's Sarsaparilla will purify it. It is the specific remedy for troubles of the blood, kidneys, bowels or liver. Kidneys—"My kidneys troubled me, and an advice took Hood's Sarsaparilla which gave prompt relief, better appetite, my sleep is refreshing. It cured my wife also." Mrs. E. B. B. 3175 Duany Street, Pittsburg, Pa.

Scrofulous Humor—"I was in terrible condition from the itching and burning of scrofulous humor. Greasy worse under treatment of several doctors. Took Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills. These cured me thoroughly." J. J. Letts, Fulton, N. Y.

SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS

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AT THE GREAT WHITE STORE

FOR A SHORT TIME * * * FOR CASH ONLY.

TO REDUCE STOCK REGARDLESS OF COST

See our special counter.

O. W. HURD CARMAN'S CHEAP CASH STORE!

Dry Goods, Groceries and Notions.

FLORENCE MEAT MARKET.

Just Opened.

Goods as Represented.

J. W. CARMAN PROPRIETOR

Hood's Sarsaparilla advertisement featuring a portrait of a man and text describing the medicine's benefits for various ailments like blood purification, kidney issues, and skin conditions. Includes the slogan 'No Eye Like the Master's Eye' and 'You are master of your health...'.